

Yeltsin suffers minor heart attack

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin left work Wednesday suffering from chest pains that were described as a "minor heart attack" by his office and several news agencies. However, the Russian term for heart attack is commonly used to refer to a broad range of ailments from chest pains to heart failure. Russia's most popular politician went home after receiving a medical examination at his office and Soviet media reported. A thorough medical explanation of his ailment was not available. The Russian government's news agency, the TASS news agency and a secretary in Mr. Yeltsin's office said the 60-year-old politician suffered a "minor heart attack." The independent Interfax news agency called it a "cardiac insufficiency." Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman and the Russian Information Agency said the president's condition was not serious enough to prevent him from giving a scheduled speech to the Russian legislature Thursday. His press secretary, Pavel Voshchanov, said Mr. Yeltsin's ailment was less serious than a heart attack. "I'd rather say he felt some pain in the heart," Mr. Voshchanov told the Associated Press. "In the morning he told his secretary that he was not feeling well. But he came out of the office himself and got into the car that took him home," Mr. Voshchanov said.

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King congratulates Baltic states

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent cables to the presidents of the three Baltic republics to congratulate them on their independence. King Hussein informed the three presidents of the Jordanian government's decision to recognize the independence of the three republics.

King watches army exercises

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein watched military exercises performed by the Fifth Royal Mechanised Division and the 12th Royal Armoured Division.

The King, accompanied by Army Chief of Staff Abu Taleb, watched the exercises Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning and heard a briefing on the exercises' different stages by troop commanders.

The different formations used live ammunition in the field exercises while fighter jets and helicopters raided selected targets.

King Hussein inspected the participating troops and voiced his appreciation of their efforts.

Attending the exercises with the King were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdallah Ibn Al Hussein, Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Prince Talal Ibn Mohamad and senior army officers.

Iranian officers sentenced to death

TEHRAN (R) — A court has sentenced to death two prison officers who ordered soldiers to kill an inmate who escaped, a Tehran newspaper said.

Kayhan daily said the court acquitted five soldiers who captured the prisoner and beat him to death on the orders of Captain Asadolah Rotami and Lieutenant Ebrahim Mirzaei. Mehdi Kheiravi escaped from prison in Maravand, northeast of Tehran, where he was being held on assault and battery charges.

Soviet food convoy arrives in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — The second big supply convoy from the Soviet Union in three days has arrived in Afghanistan, carrying food, fuel, chemicals and fertilizers, Afghanistan's official Bakhtar news agency reported Wednesday.

Wednesday, the caravan of 870 vehicles arrived in the southwestern city of Lashkargah in Helmand province on Monday after traveling from Torghundi on the Soviet border.

On Sunday, 230 vehicles brought 2,700 tonnes of wheat, sugar, soap, cooking oil and fuel to Kabul where prices have shot up recently due to fears of shortages during the coming winter.

King Fahd honours Thatcher

NICOSIA (R) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Tuesday lunched with Saudi Arabian King Fahd.

The Saudi Press Agency said the monarch awarded her the King Abdul Aziz Sash of the First Degree during a ceremony at his Al Hamra guest palace in Jeddah.

She gave no further details. Mrs. Thatcher's office in London said her visit to Saudi Arabia was part of a private trip that had already taken her to China, Japan, Hong Kong and Brunei.

Ayad, UAE president hold talks

DAMASCUS (R) — United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad resumed talks Wednesday on the situation in the Gulf and bilateral cooperation.

Officials said Sheikh Zayed, who arrived in Damascus from Cairo Tuesday, and Assad also discussed ways of promoting Arab solidarity.

The UAE leader had two rounds of talks Tuesday with Mr.

Assad. "My meeting with my brother President Hafez Al Assad allows us to exchange views on the situation in the Gulf and the latest developments in the Arab and international arena," Sheikh Zayed said in remarks published in Syrian newspapers Wednesday.

U.S. moves forces to S. Arabia against Iraq in row over inspections

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States is sending warplanes into Saudi Arabia to pressure Iraq to comply with the Gulf war ceasefire, the White House said Wednesday.

The American warplanes would fly over Iraq to provide protective cover for U.N. helicopters trying to uncover Iraq's leftover arsenal, Defence Department sources said.

The Pentagon sources, speaking privately, said one U.S. air wing would be flown into the region, along with support forces to provide intelligence and security.

Meanwhile, Iraq was reported to be near agreement Wednesday on Security Council demands it permit U.N. inspection teams to search for weapons of mass destruction to fly over its territory without restrictions, diplomats said.

White House officials said the United States planned to move air force squadrons to Saudi Arabia to be ready to strike Iraq

quickly should Baghdad not comply. But they said the "alert order" was not an ultimatum but was a precautionary move in case the helicopter dispute was not solved.

The British government fully supports the U.S. plans, British officials said.

But the officials said that while it was unlikely any British aircraft would be sent to join the U.S. units for the time being, military aircraft based in Turkey could easily be redeployed if necessary.

The sources said the U.S. administration had kept in close touch with the British government about the proposed operation.

The Security Council has

drawn up plans to use warplanes and military escorts to back up U.N. weapons inspections in Iraq if Baghdad continues to refuse to cooperate with them, the U.N. chief said.

The threat is the latest escalation of a simmering dispute over the U.N.'s demand to fly its own helicopters to search for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, and Baghdad's attempts to thwart the

process.

Some U.S. allies from the coalition that fought Iraq in the Gulf war also are participating in the effort, White House officials said. One country was identified

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Baker meets Syrian leader with draft of letter of understanding

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met with President Hafez Al Assad Wednesday to discuss prospects for a Middle East peace treaty amid a U.S.-Israeli spat over aid to the Jewish state and Syrian pessimism over his mission.

President spokesman Jibrin Kourchi did not divulge the subjects discussed at the meeting.

The meeting also was attended by Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaz, U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Rose and John Kelly, an assistant secretary of state for the Middle East.

Mr. Baker, slowly laying the groundwork for an historic Middle East peace conference, tentatively planned for October, but says it expects the conference to apply United Nations resolutions which call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory.

Mr. Baker is negotiating similar assurances to all the other central parties — Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Palestinians from the occupied territories.

The letters deal with the format and ground rules for the conference. Mr. Baker says they will be made public and the United States will give no secret promises.

A U.S. official said Mr. Baker was bringing a draft letter for Mr. Assad and wanted to hear his comments.

But he added: "We are not engaging in negotiations on every single line in

every one of these assurance docu-

ments."

Mr. Baker arrived in Damascus from Cairo after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and will go to Jordan on Thursday before returning to the United States. He may make a second visit to Israel while in the region.

In talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Monday and Tuesday, he rebuffed a request that no further strings be attached to the loan guarantees, which would give Israel access to \$10 billion at pre-federal interest.

Israel needs the money to absorb hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

President Bush has threatened to veto the guarantees if Congress approves them before the peace conference meets.

Mr. Baker told the Israeli Mr. Bush would not seek further delays after January in congressional consideration of the guarantees, but would not give a promise to support them without conditions.

State-controlled Syrian newspapers said Mr. Baker's latest shuttle was approaching failure because of "Israeli intransigence."

"After seven exhausting trips to the region, American diplomacy tries to

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan awaits Baker for formal assurances and talks on bilateral issues

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the first time in years, Jordanian officials Wednesday appeared to be at relative ease ahead of a visit by an American official trying to arrange Arab-Israeli peace talks against the backdrop of what is widely seen as a serious deterioration in relations between the U.S. and Israel over Washington's quest to delay consideration of the Jewish state's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees until after peace negotiations begin.

Officials voiced guarded optimism that Mr. Baker, who arrives here from Damascus at midday, will be carrying assurances that Jordan was seeking from the U.S. ahead of the proposed Middle East peace conference in October.

The visit today of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker comes against the backdrop of a raging dispute between the U.S. and Israel over Washington's quest to delay consideration of the Jewish state's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees until after peace negotiations begin.

Officials voiced guarded optimism that Mr. Baker, who arrives here from Damascus at midday, will be carrying assurances that Jordan was seeking from the U.S. ahead of the proposed Middle East peace conference in October.

In addition, officials said they also expected the issue of American aid to Jordan to be raised and an agreement to be finalized under which the siege at Aqaba port will be relaxed to allow Jordan-bound cargo to come in without hindrance from the American-led naval task force enforcing the international trade

Hopes high for release of hostage

BEIRUT (AP) — Iran's news agency said Wednesday a Western hostage, probably Briton Jack Mann, was expected to be freed within hours and Syria's foreign minister said he was optimistic a captive would be freed.

The reports came amid a visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Damascus, the Syrian capital that is the now-traditional transit point homeward for hostages released in Beirut.

Jordan has welcomed Mr. Baker's request to Congress to delay discussions on Israel's loan request and the president's threat to use his veto to block the Israeli bid if the Jewish state's supporters in Washington sought to push the issue through the legislative body.

Officials say that the U.S. has taken steps which helped consolidate the feeling that it was serious towards solving the Palestinian problem and the overall Arab-Israeli conflict.

They point out that Mr. Baker, who met with three Palestinian leaders in occupied Jerusalem Monday, had delivered to the trio a formal letter stating the American position. Jordan expects a similar letter containing confirmations of oral pledges made by Mr. Bush himself and the Secretary of State during his earlier swings through the Middle East following the end of the Gulf war in February.

The formalization of the Amer-

ican embargo imposed on Iraq after its Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The relative ease and guarded optimism among Jordanian officials was generally seen as determination and seriousness on the part of U.S. President George Bush to realize the objective of arranging the October peace conference.

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"Jack Mann, 77, was kidnapped in Beirut on May 12, 1989."

A knowledgeable source close to the Iranian embassy in Beirut said he was sure that Mr. Mann, a

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(Continued on page 5)

Crown Prince urges regional realignment

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has called for a new stage of interaction at the regional level, particularly in the Middle East.

In an interview with the Japanese NHK television, Prince Hassan said it had become necessary after the cold war period to start planning at regional levels and to have dialogue between regions and international committees and organisations to develop these regions and tackle their problems as a whole.

"As far as the Middle East is concerned, each state in the region is tied by bilateral considerations at the time, either to Moscow or to Washington, or to European capitals, either a carry-over of the old Anglo-French relationship or in the times of the cold war carry-over of the cold war politics of the U.S. and the USSR," he said. Today there is no balance of power in the cold war sense, and consequently we see freedom and democracy sweeping the

European theatre and now entering into the Asian theatre from Turkey to the borders of China, the Asian Soviet republics, sovereign republics they will become think tanks of them whether in the Middle Eastern context or in the Asian context regionally.

"Here in the Middle East we have the only region of the world which is still tied in one form or another to direct dialogue with Washington, with the OECD, with the EC and very little being done to develop regional cooperation. I think it will dawn on us very soon as a result of recent regional developments and I hope it will occur certainly in Japan and Europe, and the states to planners that unless we are given the same opportunity to think regionally, pragmatically, not to agree necessarily with the same level of importance on ten points, or to disagree on occasion; it is going to be very difficult to contain the flashpoints of the Middle East by old practices of direct bilateral relations or the old imperial slogan

of divide and rule."

Following are some of the NHK questions and the Crown Prince's answers in the interview:

Question: About the Middle East peace process it seems that the most plausible framework for Palestinian participation in the coming peace negotiations is a joint Jordan-Palestinian delegation. It seems to lead the way to the eventual resolution of the federation idea based on Mr. Reagan's proposal which had been discussed during the 80s. What is your view?

Answer: There are components: The first is that the Palestinians have to choose their own representatives. The PLO is excluded as the PLO as such is excluded from the process. But if that happens, in case that happens, is the Kingdom ready to go alone?

A: They will never fully consideration of Jordan going alone on behalf of the Palestinians. There is no, and never will be, a desire at any time to

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Masri working on cabinet reshuffle

By Nermene Marad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Taher Masri has started work on a government reshuffle intended at consolidating the cabinet's position in anticipation of Jordan attending the proposed Middle East peace conference between Arab states and Israel, informed sources said Wednesday.

The sources also said that the reshuffle is expected to produce a cabinet that is more representative of the different blocs in the Lower House of Parliament to ensure a more solid and consistent support for the government's policies.

Mr. Masri has already held private meetings with several cabinet members who might have to quit or be replaced before negotiations start, either in October or soon afterwards.

Those ministers targeted for change include technocrats, leftists and establishment groups, is expected to put together a more stable and stronger government by incorporating Parliament members from the Constitution Bloc which has grown to be the second

largest bloc in the House with 18 members.

The prime minister, who is himself a deputy and member of the National Bloc, already has the full support of his bloc in Parliament and largely that of the Democratic Bloc, which has five serving ministers in the cabinet.

The Democratic Bloc, the nucleus parliamentary group of the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), has not yet taken a decision to remain in government if Jordan joins the peace talks. While some leaders of JANDA want to pull out of the government if and when peace talks start, the majority appears ready to remain in the cabinet, one of the sources said.

The sources also said that the reshuffle is expected to produce a cabinet that is more representative of the different blocs in the Lower House of Parliament to ensure a more solid and consistent support for the government's policies.

Mr. Masri, who heads a loose coalition of technocrats, leftists and establishment groups, is expected to put together a more stable and stronger government by incorporating Parliament members from the Constitution Bloc which has grown to be the second

largest bloc in the House with 18 members.

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The sources also said that the reshuffle is expected to produce a

Emir heads for Washington; Kuwait wants more military help

KUWAIT (R) — The emir of Kuwait headed for the United States Wednesday to give his country's thanks for ending Iraq's occupation — and his government said it wanted more military help from Washington.

Kuwait said it would seek further military commitment from the United States once the two countries signed a 10-year pact to help protect the emirate.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, left for Oman and Cairo on his way to Washington, his first visit to the country which freed his emirate from seven months of Iraqi occupation.

Kuwait's Defence Minister Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah and U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney will sign the military pact in Washington Thursday.

It will give U.S. troops access to Kuwaiti ports and allow them to train and conduct military exercises with Kuwaiti forces. U.S. military equipment will also be stored in Kuwait.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah Al Sabah told parliament Tuesday that Kuwait wanted to expand the provisions of the agreement.

"I assure you that we have done our best to get what we wanted," he said. "Whoever reads the points of the agreement will realise that that was all what we could get from the United States."

"I share the wishes of the people to reach an agreement with a lot more commitment and responsibility by the other side. Once implemented the dialogue will continue with the Americans to expand on the provisions of the agreement," he said.

Kuwait had hoped that the United States would keep permanent military bases in the emirate but Washington said it would only keep a naval presence in the Gulf.

Vassiliou assails Denktash

NICOSIA (AP) — President George Vassiliou Tuesday blamed Turkey and Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash for sabotaging plans to hold a U.S.-sponsored meeting on the Cyprus issue this month.

In a televised address and panel discussions, Mr. Vassiliou blamed the torpedoing of the latest round of negotiations on Turkish Cypriots' demand for "sovereignty."

The island has been divided since a 1974 Athens-backed coup by Greek Cypriot supporters of union with Greece touched off an invasion by Turkish troops.

Mr. Vassiliou said Mr. Denktash sabotaged the talks by reverting to old demands that he knew were unacceptable to the Greek Cypriot side.

Instead of demanding "self-determination," Mr. Denktash now was using the word "sovereignty" but that amounted to much the same thing — recognition of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state, Mr. Vassiliou said.

Such a position made it impossible for dialogue to develop, he said.

Earlier in the summer U.S. President George Bush invited Turkish and Greek leaders to meet in the United States in September in a new initiative to solve the Cyprus problem.

But last week Athens and Ankara agreed they had not narrowed their differences sufficiently, and U.N. Special Representative on Cyprus Oscar Camion acknowledged the meeting would not take place this month as scheduled.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Snorky
19:00	Les Chevaliers de Ciel
News in French	
19:15	Documentary
News in Hebrew	
20:00	News in Arabic
The Family Man	
21:00	Outlaws
22:00	News in English
22:20	Movie of the week: "The Miner's story"

PRAYER TIMES

04:55	Fajr
06:14	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:00	Asr
16:02	Azr
18:48	Maghreb
20:05	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Sweilhah Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church,	Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	

The United States is keeping 1,500 troops in the emirate for a few more months.

The crown prince said Kuwait was in contact with Britain as well as France...they have voiced readiness to help Kuwait in matters that preserve its security and stability."

He did not elaborate, but Britain has made it clear it does not want to keep troops in Kuwait.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah told parliament with Washington would ensure "an effective military defence of Kuwait...and will be a deterrent for those who might think of attacking Kuwait again."

He said the agreement stipulated that Washington would be committed to defending Kuwait, training Kuwaiti armed forces in the United States and in Kuwait, giving the needed advice on defense matters and providing the Kuwaiti armed forces with the needed equipment and services."

The foreign minister — apparently trying to allay local and Arab fears — asserted the agreement was not an interference in the emirate's internal affairs.

After 10 years, it could be renewed on an annual basis. Either side could terminate it by notifying the other a year in advance.

Sheikh Jaber arrived in Salalah, Oman, as part of his regional stops to discuss Gulf security arrangements before his meeting in Washington with President Bush.

Sheikh Jaber was received by Sultan Qaboos in Salalah, the sultanate's summer capital on the southern flank of the Arabian Sea. The leaders held talks before the emir proceeded to Egypt later in the day for a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak.

On Thursday, he heads to Syria for a meeting with President Hafez Al Assad and then goes to

the United States where he is also to address the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Sept. 26.

Post-war security arrangements for the oil-rich Gulf region are moving on three dimensions — Gulf; Arab and international through bilateral security pacts by the Gulf Arab states similar to the one Kuwait is signing with the United States.

Sheikh Jaber's talks with Sultan Qaboos were expected to deal with the role that Iraq can also play in the developing security arrangements.

Among the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — the sultanate has stronger bonds with Tehran. Omani Foreign Minister Yousef Bin Alawi held talks there recently on the issue of security.

GCC foreign ministers at a weekend meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, welcomed development of friendly ties in various domains with the Persian state to end the years of tension following the Islamic revolution of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and the eight years of war between Iran and Iraq, also an Arab state.

The Sharjah-based Al Khaleej daily reported this week that Iran would sign economic and cultural agreements with the GCC simultaneously with "non-aggression pacts on a collective or bilateral scale."

The issue of security dominated Sheikh Jaber's talks on his first forays from Kuwait since his country was freed. His first visit was to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd, following which he visited UAE, Qatar and Bahrain.

Egypt and Syria are the two key non-GCC Arab states expected to play a role in security arrangements.

U.N. to use U-2s to monitor Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations plans to monitor Iraq's weapons programs with U-2 spy planes backed by fighter escorts and by having allied troops guard inspectors if Iraq fails to cooperate, diplomats said Tuesday.

The ultimatum marks the latest escalation of a simmering dispute over the United Nations' demand to fly its own helicopters to search for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, and Baghdad's attempts to thwart the overflights.

Until last week, Iraq insisted that only Iraqi helicopters and pilots could be used by U.N. inspectors to monitor the identification and destruction of Iraq's long-range missiles and chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programmes.

On Monday, diplomats said, Iraq partially gave in by agreeing to allow U.N. inspectors to use three helicopters and crews donated by Germany, but at the same time imposing unacceptable restrictions on their use.

Baghdad wanted the flights limited to a two-week period and did not want the helicopters flown over parts of the Iraqi capital, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

U.N. officials said the Western allies — the United States, Britain and France — are prepared to back the U.N. weapons inspectors with multinational troops and warplanes if Baghdad does not allow the U.N. helicopter overflights.

Since the U-2s have already been flying over Iraq at over 20,000 metres, well beyond effective range of Iraqi air defences, the fighter escorts would be mainly symbolic, said one diplomat.

Referring to the U-2 overflights, chief U.N. weapons expert Rolf Ekenu said last week that he has been receiving "high altitude" photographs of Iraq weekly, but U.N. helicopters are needed to check suspicious sites seen in the pictures.

The U.N. officials expressed hope that Iraqi authorities will reach a compromise with the U.N. Special Commission set up to oversee the destruction of Iraq's non-conventional weapons.

But they said the United States, Britain and France are determined to overcome Iraqi non-cooperation one way or the other.

With U.S. president George Bush coming to address the U.N. General Assembly Monday, they said U.S. officials want to make sure that Baghdad is not seen to be openly defying the world body.

Mr. Bush's national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, said in a television interview Sunday that the U.S. administration would not rule out the use of American troops if Iraq does not cooperate.

"We're looking at it very seriously, and we think it is important that Iraq comply with resolutions of the Security Council," he said.

Mr. Urdal told Aftenposten he would demand a full explanation in parliament and the resignation of Stein Urda, head of Norwegian intelligence, if Mr. Urdal had authorised the Mossad interrogation.

Mr. Chaffey, a socialist member of parliament, said the report was especially disturbing because Mossad was blamed for the only known political murder in Norway. Six Israelis were convicted and eventually pardoned for the July 1973 killing of a Moroccan waiter, which their defence described as an "accidental assassination."

Mr. Chaffey said he would know of one interrogation that appeared to fit Aftenposten's description. "I think there is a lot of truth in the report," he said.

Paul Chaffey, a socialist member of parliament, said the report was especially disturbing because Mossad was blamed for the only known political murder in Norway. Six Israelis were convicted and eventually pardoned for the July 1973 killing of a Moroccan waiter, which their defence described as an "accidental assassination."

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The newspaper report said Mossad expressed a strong desire to question PLO members and U.N. efforts to enforce the ceasefire provisions calling for the dismantling of long-range missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq asks ICRC to probe reports troops buried alive

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq has appealed to the Red Cross to investigate reports in U.S. newspapers that American troops used tanks and earthmovers to bury thousands of Iraqi soldiers in their trenches, some of them alive.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Husseini Khudayer made the call in a letter to the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus.

"I know burying people like that sounds pretty nasty," Colonel Los Maggart, who led the first brigade in the assault during the first two days of ground fighting, told Newsday.

"But it would be even nastier if we had to put our troops in the trenches and clean them out with bayonets."

No American was killed in the operation. The Iraqi body count was estimated in the thousands.

The tactic had not previously been reported to the American public. Reporters were banned from witnessing much of the action during the Gulf war.

Ozal files libel suit

ANKARA (AP) — President Turgut Ozal has filed a libel suit against a top-selling Turkish newspaper that published a letter Mr. Ozal purportedly sent to the U.S. ambassador eight years ago.

Bilgin Yalcinoglu, the family lawyer for the Ozals, called the letter published Tuesday by Sabah a fake and said the newspaper's aim was to create the impression Mr. Ozal was serving U.S. interests.

In the letter allegedly sent to then U.S. Ambassador Robert Strantz-Hope, Mr. Ozal expressed gratitude for the ambassador's role in the election victory eight years ago of Mr. Ozal's Motherland Party.

President spokesman Kaya Topcu also said the letter was a fake and contended the newspaper had published it in an attempt to damage the Motherland Party in the scheduled Oct. 20 elections.

Mr. Ozal acted with unusual swiftness, filing the suit the same day that the letter was published. The suit seeks five billion liras (about \$1 million) in damages, a record request in Turkey.

Sabah duty editor Mehmet Bakar said the newspaper was satisfied with the explanation of the author of its report that he had received the document "from an important person." Mr. Bakar

said the journalist would reply to the libel accusations in the newspaper.

In the letter, Mr. Ozal allegedly wrote, "I and my associates ... are fully aware that the enormous joy and satisfaction (over the landslide victory) would hardly have been possible without the helping hand of a good friend."

"For this reason I cannot refrain from expressing our respect and gratitude to you and other friends who have contributed to our victory," continued the letter.

Mr. Topcu, the presidential spokesman, said police experts established the signature on the letter was forged and that the party then was not using the logo that appears on the letter.

Mr. Topcu also said he had talked with the retired ambassador who said he could not remember receiving the letter.

Presidential spokesman Kaya Topcu also said the letter was a fake and contended the newspaper had published it in an attempt to damage the Motherland Party, which was favoured by the outgoing general.

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Jordan Times

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More than money at stake

THERE IS more than meets the eye in the test of wills between U.S. President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Jewish lobbyists. Obviously the implications of the confrontation between the U.S. and Israel are far-reaching and go beyond the \$10 billion loan guarantees, themselves. What lies at the centre of the raging storm is the administration's resolve to crack once and perhaps for all the Zionist grip on the decision-making process in Washington. This Israeli syndrome had taken a heavy toll on the national interests of the U.S. already, and it is only natural that one day the American people would move to put an end to this disproportionate power that Israel and its supporters and apologists enjoy in the U.S. with 85% of the Americans supporting their president on this issue, Mr. Bush can effectively call the shots.

From the Arab point of view and in the context of the ongoing U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace mission to the Middle East, the tug-of-war between Messrs. Bush and Shamir puts the resolve and ability of the U.S. to broker peace in the region to the ultimate test. Should President Bush bow to Israeli intimidations and Jewish threats, he would send the unmistakable signal that in the final analysis he would not be able to deliver on his pledge to bring his nation's prestige to bear on the course of events in this area.

The euphoria and optimism generated already by the clear will of President Bush not to let himself be cowed as so many American presidents had done in the past, however, cannot be sustained if there is humiliating compromise in the pipeline. The current talk about a six-point compromise formula to end the deadlock makes the Arabs feel somewhat uncomfortable and insecure, since such a scenario might become the wrong model for Arab-Israeli talks themselves. The Arab side certainly does not want to compromise over principles contained in U.N. resolutions, upon which these talks will be based, nor would we want to see the Americans reach compromises with the Israelis over them should the talks become deadlocked.

Likewise, there would be no comfort in the idea of linking the loan guarantees just to freezing the settlement programme in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. One has to be naive not to comprehend that a simple accounting manipulation can satisfy such a transient objective while at the same time diverting funds to the continuous settlement construction on Arab lands. Who is to check if the billions acquired through the sought loans would not release funds from Israel's state budget earmarked for other purposes to service the Israeli colonisation campaign? Besides, why trade money for something which has already been declared by the U.S. and others as inherently illegal and contrary to international law especially the fourth Geneva Convention? This is nothing but extortion and intimidation on the part of the Israelis and their supporters.

On the eve of Mr. Baker's seventh trip to the region and his sixth to Jordan, we call on the U.S. president and his secretary of state to cement their resolve and stand firm in the face of Israeli tactics to undermine every American effort to establish peace and stability in the area. Only such determination and exercise of political will could save the day for the parties concerned and strengthen the confidence of everybody, including Israelis, in American seriousness and even-handedness. Leaving the fate of peace to Mr. Shamir and like-minded Israeli leaders would simply not do as the loss of so many opportunities in the past has demonstrated time and again.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ARAB masses are demanding that the United States adopt a firm stand with regard to the implementation of international legitimacy concerning the Palestine question and Arab-Israeli conflict, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. If President George Bush and his secretary of state succeed in forcing the Israelis to accept the idea of peace and the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions then Washington will achieve a major victory, and the whole region will triumph, said the paper. But, it said, if the Zionist lobby has the upper hand in this affair and forces the United States administration to retreat from the path of genuine and lasting peace, the whole region will suffer and the Bush administration will have a defeat. The influence which Israel and the Zionist lobby had so far on the U.S. administrations has weakened Washington's position in the Middle East region over the past three decades, the paper said. But, it said, in view of the regional and international developments, the U.S. administration can no longer condone the Israeli government's illegal actions which foster hatred and the desire for revenge among the peoples of the region. What the Arab masses demand from the Bush administration, the paper added, is a stand not less firm than that with which Washington confronted Iraq for its occupation of Kuwait.

Sawt Al Shabab daily considered the U.S. administration's offer of a compromise to Israel on the question of loan guarantees as a clear bias towards the Jewish state which is an ally of the United States. The paper said that the assurances given to Israel by the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker can only be interpreted as siding with the Israeli stand. The U.S. administration, the paper said, had at no time stood or is prepared to stand firm in the face of Israel's intransigence. We had always stressed the need for the U.S. administration to exercise pressure on Israel if it is really determined to force it to respect the international legitimacy and implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, said the paper. But, it added, in light of the U.S. assurances to Israel we can see that Washington has not moved one step forward towards the peace process, but, on the contrary, has displayed its total bias towards Israel. Furthermore, said the paper, the U.S. administration does not demand from Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab land in implementation of U.N. resolutions and does not wish to see the Palestinians enjoying the right to self-determination or creating their own state in Palestine.

Realism and creativeness are the watch words for meeting the peace challenge head on

By Abdullah Hasanat

THE U.S. administration must be commended for its genuine drive to achieve peace in the Middle East region. No-one with a clear conscience should doubt the sincerity of both President George Bush and Secretary James Baker in wanting to make progress towards peace.

Both men have devoted much of their effort and time to the pursuit of peace in this troubled part of the world. In addition, the two statesmen are putting their political careers at risk in their quest for peace. "I don't care even if I get one vote," the president bravely said alluding to Jewish lobbyists' strength and bullying of American congressmen.

Only a bigot would think that the president has anything in mind except the American people's interest in a lasting peace in the region.

Secretary Baker, the man responsible for running the foreign affairs of the U.S. superpower, has devoted a considerable amount of his time and energy shuttling in the Middle East, at times taking abuse, in a mission he believes to be sacred.

Both the president and the secretary deserve our support. Not only that, Arab backing should manifest itself in concrete actions. The rhetoric in our media about U.S. ill-intentions should be countered, because it is counter-productive at best.

Furthermore, verbal support for U.S. policies is not enough. The U.S. administration in its fight with the Jewish and pro-Israeli lobby in the U.S. needs from the Arabs a lot more than

lip-service.

There are many steps that Arab governments can take to show their backing for the administration's stance and thus embarrass the Israelis for their intransigence. An Arab peaceful assault should manifest itself in pledges and actions. Can't rich Arab states for example announce their willingness to finance the cost of a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict that is based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories? There have been reports that Saudi Arabia has secretly pledged \$20 billion to finance the cost of peace, if and when it comes. Why, if it is true, can't the Saudis and other Arab Gulf states make their position public? And, if the reports are not true, why can't our richer Arabs think along these lines in order to give peace a chance? Amounts like \$20 billion are peanuts compared to the actual costs of the Gulf war. Besides if the liberation of Kuwait could be brought with money, wouldn't it be fair to buy the occupied Arab territories without firing a single bullet?

On the other hand, what would the Arabs lose if they announced their intention to unilaterally reduce the number of their armed forces? In fact they would probably gain much from doing so. For one thing, they would create pressure on the Israelis to reciprocate. Second, they would free funds much needed for development. It is a well-known fact that the Arab armies cannot in the foreseeable future at least match the Israeli military

machine, nor could our armies develop in quality in complete isolation from Arab societies that are either backward and illiterate or stricken with poverty and famine.

These are only two of many possible steps that Arab governments can take to enhance their standing at any future peace talks. Moreover, these are measures that are only limited to Israeli withdrawal. In other words, they are non-binding if their purpose is maintained.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is reported to have warned the Palestinians that the train for a peaceful settlement is moving and they would be left behind if they did not take it on time. Palestinians and other Arabs joining the ride should at least attempt to join with dignity. It could be true that the defeat and humiliation of Iraq were intended as defeat and humiliation for all Arabs. However, military defeats need not mean political setbacks.

In the conflict with Israel, the whole world, including the U.S., supports Palestinian political rights and a peaceful settlement based on Security Council resolutions as demanded by the Arabs. We need only to be bold and courageous in our quest for peace. It will not matter an iota if we repeated our clichés and slogans for the billionth time. What makes change is new ideas and a different approach from what we have thus far been used to.

The writer is a member of the Jordan Times editorial staff.

Israeli civilian settlements on Arab land illegal under international law

By Lu'ay M. Rimawi

THE Middle East, an arena for incessant hostilities, has always been a dominant concern for the international community. Nevertheless, it is regrettable to witness international law so subservient to parochial national expediency. The upholding of international law as an independent and invisible notion has been in the balance in the wake of the Gulf crisis. Sadly, one may remain uneasy at the variable ardour with which the Security Council has sought to implement its resolutions there. The council's laxity in working out an equitable solution, tinged with political retarding tactics exercised by many parts of that equation, has always nourished the intractable status quo.

The air of optimism shared currently by many parties in the Middle East, albeit very tenuous, is at least progress. Admittedly, the suffering encountered there run in a vicious circle, where condemning one party without reproaching the other is no longer feasible. Nonetheless, the continuation of unabridged Israeli practices in the occupied territories can still endanger the viability of such embryonic optimism.

The establishment of Israeli civilian settlements on Arab land in the occupied territories is unlawful under international law. Israel has persistently flouted international rules regarding this issue, and never beeded the outraged international community.

The adoption of such attitudes as part of national policy, by Israel (or indeed, by any other country) not only jeopardises the fundamental fabric of humanitarian international law, but also embarrasses the "civilisation" approaching the new millennium.

In this essay, the legality of those settlements will be considered according to the norms of international law.

The Israeli occupied territories include the West Bank of Jordan (encompassing East Jerusalem formally annexed by Israel in 1980) the Gaza Strip and the annexed Golani Heights. Israel's control by force over that area is not sanctioned by international agreement.

It has been suggested in the British military manuals that an occupation takes place when "a locality is in possession and where the occupant sets up a temporary administration." (Israel judicial practices have accepted both the British and the American military manuals as part of the Israeli municipal law. Thereafter, the laws on occupation enshrined in the laws of war, viz., the *ius ad bellum* (rules of international law governing the legality of the use of force by states) and *ius in bello* (rules of international law regulating the conduct of hostilities, once force has been used) are expected to be implemented.)

"It (Article 1 Paragraph 4 of the 1977 Geneva Protocol I) clarifies what was already widely accepted, and that the law on occupations is applicable even in situations (like the West Bank and Gaza) where occupied territory was not universally viewed as having been part of "the territory of a High Contracting Party (HCP)." As Bothe, Partsch and Soff say, it appears that the term "alien occupation" is meant to cover cases in which a High Contracting Party occupies territories of a state which is not a HCP, or territories with a controversial international status."

The Israeli occupation is technically characterised as a "belligerent occupation." According to Professor Roberts, belligerent occupation, in its strict sense: "(a) an occupation which is conducted by belligerent states; (b) results in the occupation of a territory of an enemy belligerent state and; (c) takes place before any general armistice is con-

cluded."

Protecting the civilian population from the opposition of the occupant and "limiting (his) factual power," has been the landmark of the law on belligerent occupation.

Generally speaking, the most relevant international conventions concerning occupation are; the 1907 Hague Regulations; the 1949 Geneva Convention IV (it has been suggested that it is a "people-oriented convention" rather than a "territory-oriented one") and the 1977 Geneva Protocol I.

Israeli legal literature and courts have accepted the *de jure* applicability of 1907 Hague Regulations; the 1949 Geneva Convention IV on the occupied Arab territories.

The General Assembly for its part, has on many occasions affirmed the *de jure* applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention IV on the Israeli occupied territories.

2. Concerning the occupied Arab territories, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) asserted that there is an occupation, whenever during an armed conflict "territory under the authority of one of the parties passes under the authority of an opposing party." (Therefore, the 1949 Geneva Convention IV is expected to become fully applicable.) Also, on numerous occasions the ICRC has asserted the formal applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the occupied Arab territories:

3. The majority of the international community, and much of international law (and even some Israeli) legal opinion, has not accepted that the 1949 Geneva Convention IV is *de jure* applicable on the Israeli occupied territories.

The fact that the previous status of the territories may have been slightly different from what those who negotiated the 1949 Geneva Conventions may have had in mind, does not negate the strongly held international consensus concerning the Israeli occupied territory. Professor Roberts again expounds this view:

Neither the law as laid down in international conventions nor state practice justifies the restrictive approach of viewing the law on occupations as applying only to the classic case of belligerent occupation, in which one belligerent occupies the territory of another belligerent during an armed conflict. The law on occupations has in fact been applied to a wider range of cases than this: it is properly viewed as being formally applicable in many types of occupation and, indeed, many situations to which the opprobrious term "occupation" is not actually attached. It (the law on belligerent occupation) contains some notable elements of flexibility.

4. Furthermore, it has been persuasively argued that Article 3 paragraph b of the 1977 Geneva Protocol abrogates the "one after" provision of Article 6 paragraph 3 of the 1949 Geneva Convention IV. Both, Partsch and Soff support this view. Accordingly, the Fourth Geneva Convention does not "cease one year after the general close of military operations." It has also been suggested that the one year limit was a special *ad hoc* provision, improvised for the occupation of Germany and Japan after World War II.

From the aforesaid, one does not depart from reason when advocating the *de jure* applicability of international law, viz., Articles 23 and 46 of the 1907 Hague Convention IV and Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which renders "extensive appropriation of private property" a "grave breach" of the convention.

(b) The occupant exercises authority on a *de facto* basis, he does not acquire sovereignty, and is only expected to continue the duty of orderly government.

The establishment of Israeli civilian settlements on the West Bank and Gaza is illegal for the following reasons:

(a) Under Article 23/g of the 1907 Hague Convention IV, it is prohibited "to destroy or seize the enemy's property, unless such destruction or seizure be imperatively demanded by the necessities of war." Also under Article 46 of that Convention "...private property — must be respected. Private property cannot be confiscated." These texts are self-explanatory. Private property is "immune from seizure." International law does not condone the seizure or expropriation of private property. Such extreme contingencies were sanctioned in minimal and exceptional situations.

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the settlements programme was primarily intended to contribute to the occupying power's security, and whether, in the event, it has contributed to that end; by causing friction with the Palestinian inhabitants of the territories, the programme added to the work of the Israel Defence Army.

(d) The establishment of Israeli civilian settlements on the occupied territory, is also blatant violation of Article 49 paragraph 6 of the 1949 Geneva Convention IV. Under the previous article, "the occupant is enjoined upon deporting or transferring parts of his own civilian population into the (occupied) territory." He is only allowed to evacuate the civilian population, when it is absolutely necessary to do so. This should *ab initio* be on a temporary basis, and without prejudice to the acquired rights of the civilian population, in such eventualities, the evictees must be returned to their rightful homes as soon as the situation permits, Israel, through its governmental and even its independent institutions, has promoted establishing civilian settlements on the occupied territories, while simultaneously denying the Arab owners their land. The conviction of the consecutive Israeli governments over this issue has, so far, yielded 164 settlements, since 1967.

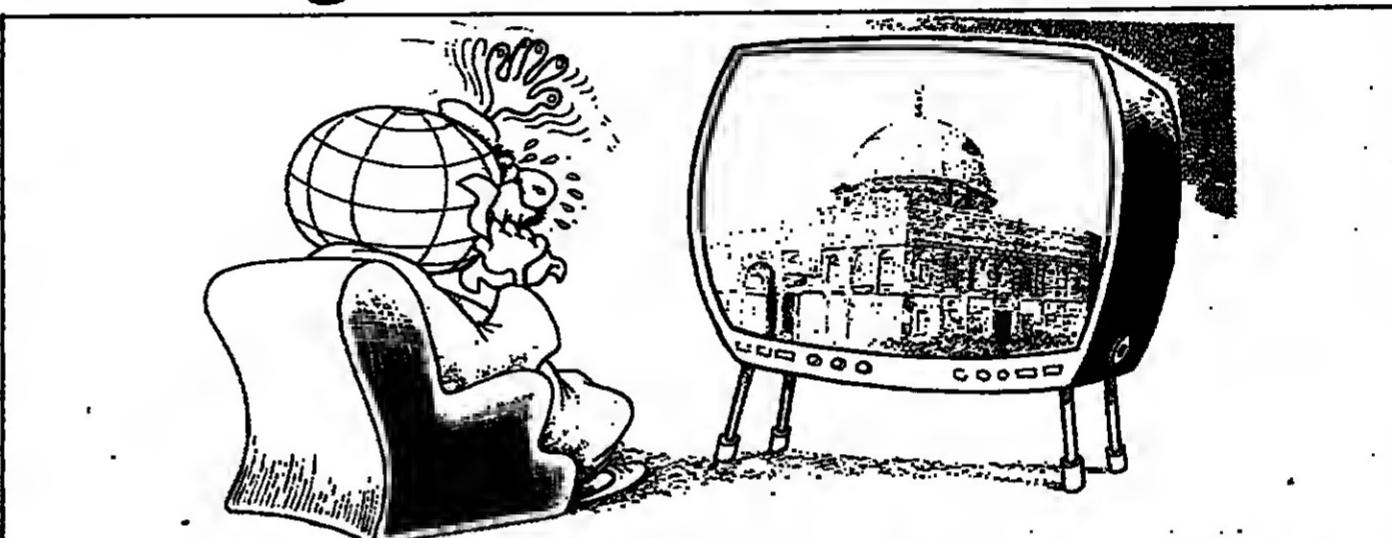
(e) The General Assembly's Resolution 33/13c, adopted on Dec. 18, 1978, was one of many resolutions dealing with the establishment of Israeli civilian settlements on the occupied Arab territory. It condemned "the following Israeli policies and practices: Establishments of new Israeli settlements and expansion of the existing settlements on private and public Arab lands, and transfer of an alien population thereto; confiscation and expropriation of private and public Arab property in the occupied territories and all other transactions for the acquisition of land involving the Israeli authorities, institutions of the occupied territories on the other..." Doubtless, the General Assembly's resolutions reflect the overwhelming condemnation of international community to the establishment of Israeli civilian settlements on the occupied Arab territories.

The State Department has repeatedly voiced the United States concern over the settlements issue. Not only was the establishment of Israeli civilian settlements condemned as illegal, but it was also considered as an "obstacle to progress" in the peace-making process."

The most recent international response concerning the Israeli settlements on the occupied Arab territories, came from the Jan. G-7 Summit in London. In its declaration on July 17, 1991, it stated that: "...the Israeli policy of building settlements in the occupied territories (should be suspended)."

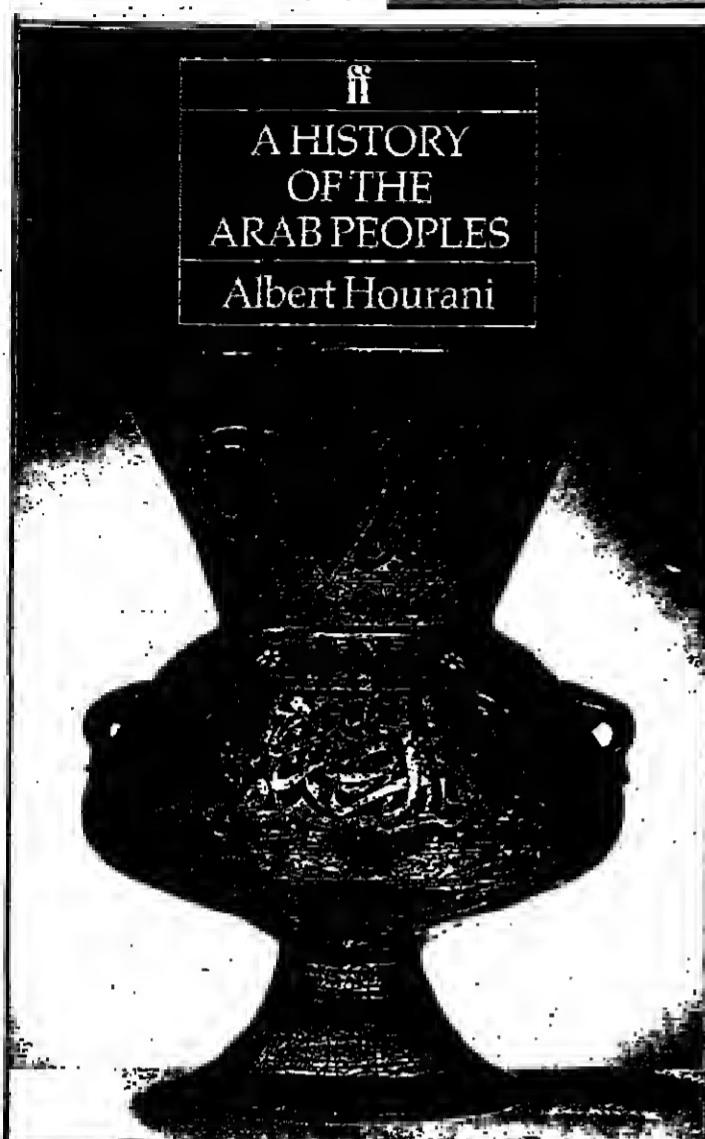
Israeli arguments of "security needs" are appreciated by the writer. Nevertheless, it is high time countries of the region had review of their ossified policies — both externally and internally: might be schematic and rather truisms, but regional compromises and *bona fide* intentions, are indispensable ingredients for peace in the Middle East.

The writer is an M.A. student of law at the Robinson College in Cambridge, England.



Weekender

An indispensable book for all students of Arab history



A History of the Arab Peoples

By Albert Hourani
Faber & Faber Limited
London, United Kingdom

THE LONDON publishers Faber & Faber Limited released, at the start of this year, an extensive work about the Arab Peoples. They could not have chosen a more suitable time, since the Arabs, in the aftermath of the Gulf war, have become a "Headline" item of news practically every day. The publicity resulting from this continuous press coverage, although adverse in general, has created unusual interest in the Arabs, their countries, and their history. This had led to the book, under review, becoming a best seller during the months of April and May. It has actually topped the "Ten Best Books List" during two months and this is indeed an accomplishment for a book written by an Arab about the Arabs.

The writer, Albert Hourani, was born in Manchester. His father Mr. Fadi Hourani, a Lebanese from Jdeideh Marjayoun travelled after graduation from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1891, to England where he established himself in the cotton trade with the then Arab parts of the Ottoman Empire. His three sons, George, Albert and Cecil, were educated at Oxford University and both Albert and Cecil were closely attached to the Arab cause, and rendered worthy services through their work at the Arab Office in Jerusalem, London, New York and Washington. Albert later joined the teaching staff at AUB and during those years, was able to make a thorough study of the political conditions in Syria and Lebanon during the French Mandate and immediately after independence. His book *Syria And Lebanon — A Political Essay* was published in 1946 under the auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London. After those years in Beirut, he joined Oxford University where he directed the Middle East Centre and became the leading Arab history professor until his retirement in 1984. Presently he lives in London and lectures audiences in Britain, Europe and the USA.

This encyclopedic work covers the history of the Arab

peoples from the early rise in Islam in the first part of the seventh century. The extensive study it contains required more than 550 pages in small script. An enumeration of the different chapters will give the reader an idea of its richness and comprehensive nature.

After the preface and explanations, Part I starts with chapter one under the exciting title *The Making Of A World, Arab life before the Message of Prophet Mohammad and then appearance of Islam*.

Chapter two deals with the formation of the Arab Empire, whilst chapter three discusses the formation of the society. Chapter four is a learned study of the articulation of Islam, involving the question of authority the power and justice of God, the Shari'a and the traditions of the Prophet.

Part II is concerned with the period of the eleventh to the fifteenth centuries with a study of the Arab Muslim World in the countryside and the cities. It explains the ways of Islam and the culture of the Ulema with their divergent paths of thoughts.

Part III deals with the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries when the Ottoman Empire ruled paramount. It explains Arab Ottoman society and its culture and the changing relations with Europe.

BOOK REVIEW

Part IV deals with the age of Europe's empires between 1800-1939. The culture of imperialism and the rise of the intelligentsia with their attempts at reform, lead to the emergence of Arab nationalism. The climax of European power between 1914 and 1939 and the changing ways of life and thought during that important period are also discussed at some length.

Part V concentrates on the age of nations since 1939. It deals with the end of the empires and the changes of Arab societies leading to what the author calls "The climax of Arabism in the 1950s and 1960s." The 1967 war is rightly pointed out as the end of Arab unity and the start of Arab disunity which the author describes as a disturbance of the spirits with all that it brought in ethnic and religious



Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber

divisions.

At the end of the book detailed tables of the family of the Prophet, the Shi'ite imams, the caliphs, the important dynasties, the ruling dynasties in the 19th and 20th centuries and the Hashemites are inserted. There is also one of the most comprehensive bibliographies, about the subjects contained in the different chapters. This wonderful addition to an outstanding work renders the book as indispensable for all students of Arab history, civilisation and culture.

It also makes a subject of interesting reading for the non-specialised reader who has an open mind for knowledge, balanced views, and well arranged thoughts on matters of great political importance and their possible impact on current affairs in the Arab World.

By Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber

West meets East in a TV studio

By Phillipa Neave

LONDON — The countdown has started at the Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC) in London as potentially the world's largest television channel in Arabic prepares to go on the air. The station, called MBC, is aiming at a kickoff date around Oct. 1 to beam down its first programme from a European telecommunications satellite.

"We have started by aiming at Arabic-speaking viewers in Europe," explains senior executive Tony Naufall. "We have a potential audience of approximately 5 million viewers in Europe. Later we will bounce our signal to the Arabsat satellite and cover an audience of over 100 million in the Arab World." One of the originators of the ambitious project, Lebanese-born Naufall heads a team of 100 staff, Arab and Western in almost equal proportions.

At the studios in southwest London everyone is racing against the clock. Staffers work late into the night in the newsroom and the editing studios, preparing programmes, testing equipment and getting ready to launch what will be a unique, news-led TV station in the Arabic language.

MBC is relying on state-of-the-art satellite communications technology, says spokeswoman Fiona Waters. "We are coming at a time when the advent of home satellite dishes and cable television has already taken hold. To receive MBC, people in Europe will need 80-centimetre dishes — some 1.2 million homes in Britain already have them, and many apartment blocks and hotels

have large communal dishes that can receive the signal," she adds. A dish of this sort costs between \$300, to \$500. People in the Middle East will need larger, slightly more expensive dishes, between 1.2m and 1.5m in diameter.

MBC's signal will be broadcast free of charge, the privately-funded project relying on advertising for revenues. It will reach from Scandinavia to Sudan and from Ireland to India, beginning with five hours of programming a day, and then raising air time to nine hours. Adds Mr. Naufall: "This will be a news-oriented general entertainment channel, broadcasting news on the hour. The news will be fast-paced, highlighting international events with a special emphasis on Arab issues and events relating to the Arab World in general. It will be Western-style programming and pacing, but we will present the news from an Arab perspective."

Naufall and chief executive Tareq Rizvi, who is from Saudi Arabia, have been working for the past four years to get the MBC project off the ground and put together programming that will contain the right mix for a mass Arab audience. The idea for the channel came from recognition that many Arabs living abroad feel the need to keep in touch with their cultural traditions and what is going on back home. MBC's investors, mostly Saudi Arabian, believe that Arabs in the Middle East are also ready for an international news station providing top quality entertainment. "We have been trying to find the proper mix that will satisfy viewers both

in Europe and in the Middle East," Mr. Naufall notes. "In Europe, we will have to compete with 30 or more satellite channels already available to the public, but our programmes will be tailor-made and the surveys we have conducted show that there is a lot of enthusiasm for it."

Mountira Khalifa, originally from Saudi Arabia and a long-time resident of London, agrees: "I certainly would watch it because although the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) is very good, I would like to see the other side," she commented. "Arabs abroad like to read their own newspapers and I'm sure they would love to have their own TV channel."

"For people in the Middle East, an unbiased and impartial view of things will be very appealing," added Mr. Khalifa, 51. Being based in London, MBC will come under the regulations and standards set by Britain's Independent Television Commission (ITC). Stephen Marney, who heads a team of some 40 reporters, editors and news producers in MBC's newsroom, explains: "MBC is a British broadcasting company under the rules of the ITC, and there can be no form of censorship. MBC will compile its news from international networks such as Visnews and World Television Network (WTN), as well as relying on local correspondents." Adds 38-year old Marley: "I think we will live happily with the local state-run news organisations in the 21 Arab countries. The audience will have the bonus of access to comprehensive international news on MBC,

and then they can tune into their national government-run stations for local news. We may even ask the local stations to join us so we can pool our resources in certain circumstances."

Mr. Marley, who has almost 20 years of experience in broadcasting, is helping to train the team of news reporters and presenters. "All our presenters are professionals from the Middle East, but they have to be trained for MBC's special requirements. The Middle Eastern style of broadcasting is slower and more relaxed. For example, a typical half-hour news broadcast in Lebanon contains 8 or 9 stories, while CNN (the U.S.'s Cable News Network) or the BBC will carry 18 to 20 stories. This is what we are aiming for: style, speed and delivery."

"Our bulletins will contain a much larger component of Middle Eastern news than national or international networks. More than half of the programme will contain news from or about the Middle East," he added. The station will also offer feature films, weekly programmes on such topics as fashion, medicine, film and travel, and a variety show. Each day's broadcast will open with a reading from the Koran and a short religious talk from Sheikh Gamal Mana' of Britain's leading mosque in London's Regents Park. After the news, MBC will broadcast one of its prime-time in-house productions. "These programmes will be something that has never been seen in the Arab World," boasts features director Margaret Sawdon, a Briton who speaks and reads Arabic.

Another attraction will be the weekly film review programme presented by a young Jordanian who came to the

"These are Western-style production for the Arab market — an Arab product, produced by Westerners." Arab team-members are always consulted for content and appeal, but the technical side of the programming is run by British technicians who are among the world's most experienced and technically advanced in television production. "It is a combination of talents, and we always turn to native Arabs for the final say," adds Mr. Sawdon.

Except for news, Mr. Sawdon is responsible for all MBC's in-house productions. "Our fashion programme, for example, is run by a top-rated multitalented British producer with two Egyptian presenters. He takes them out on location to do anything from runway shows to profiles of top designers and interviews with health and beauty experts," she explains. One health and beauty show centres on advice from Arab beauticians and hairdressers.

The medical programme explores new health discoveries and technologies, for example methods of educating handicapped children, the effects of passive smoking, the latest in laser technology. As with all the other shows, MBC makes a special effort to select Arab interviewees.

"There are lots of Arabs in London," says Mr. Sawdon, and they can offer specialised advice. The medical programme is unique because it will be presented by a Briton, David Powell, who is fluent in classical Arabic.

Another attraction will be the weekly film review programme presented by a young Jordanian who came to the



The news team of the Middle East racing against the clock to go on air in October.

station as a researcher and within two weeks displayed such dynamism and talent that he was put in front of the camera. Says Mr. Sawdon: "The programme will be an up-to-date review of big box office movies that are likely to be shown in the Middle-East as well as news on who is making what and where in the Arab World, with interviews of filmmakers and film stars."

Also in the pipeline is a travel programme combining a presentation of holiday spots around the world with practical information for those destinations, such as currency and visa and health requirements. More upbeat entertainment is scheduled, with a variety show that will feature sports, pop music, comedy and a mix of short takes on amazing feats and unusual events. MBC will also run a semi-educational programme based on the theme "this day in history." Explains Sawdon: "Our director has a degree in history, and we will try and tailor the programme to include a good deal of Arab history. The programme could include anything from the national day of Qatar to

Frank Sinatra's birthday, the first flight of the Concorde or the start of the Lebanese civil war. There will be politics and celebrity and sports events two or three times a week."

In addition, MBC is working on educational and entertainment programmes for children, and is dubbing into Arabic, exclusively for MBC, the soundtracks of series that are produced by other TV channels. These include documentary series from the United States, Britain and other countries on a wide variety of themes such as wildlife, the environment, astronomy, history and cultures of the world. These programmes are currently being dubbed in Egypt, Lebanon and Cyprus. MBC is also planning to show at least one Middle Eastern feature film per day drawn from the favourites and classics of the Arab, and in particular Egyptian, cinema.

The organisers and directors of MBC are optimistic about the future, pointing out that previous efforts at launching independent Arabic language TV channels have so far remained small-scale and accessible to limited au-

diences. The momentum at MBC is growing by the minute as the young and dynamic staff rush to overcome organisational and technical obstacles. Many of the British staff either speak Arabic or have knowledge and experience of working in the Middle East or with Middle Easterners. That makes for an atmosphere in the studios that is congenial and fast-track, with each side complementing the other. It is a combination of Western hi-tech know-how and Arab guidance. It makes the job far more interesting," says Mr. Sawdon. "There are things only people who have lived in the Middle East and experienced the Islamic way of life can understand and do. It is an art to be able to do it."

Although some members of the MBC channel feel that the team needs more time before it is ready to go on the air, others can't wait for the channel's debut. Meanwhile, members of the public like Mr. Khalifa who have heard about the project seem eager to tune in: "I am sure it will be a success, a lot of people are very thirsty for something like this," says — World News Link.

Art theft to be major problem when EC borders come down in 1992

By Kate Dourian
Reuter

LONDON — Police fear trafficking in stolen art will leap when the European Community (EC) dismantles border controls next year, making it easier for thieves to skip between countries.

Police will still need special permission to follow up a theft in another country — and this can take weeks "while the criminal just goes," said detective Richard Ellis of the Art and Antiques Squad at London's Scotland

Yard police headquarters.

"There already is a problem and it certainly will increase after 1992," he added.

Art theft is a global problem with the annual trade in stolen items already estimated at between £500 million (£1.5 billion (\$860 million to \$2.6 billion)).

Trace, a journal which lists missing goods, says more than 60,000 works of art were stolen within the EC in 1990. Britain loses up to 5,000 paintings a year and in the last 20 years, 245,000 works of art were stolen in Italy

alone.

Police and art experts say the volume will increase when border controls are dropped under the EC single market act of 1992.

Because the value of paintings, silver and antiques has risen faster than inflation, art theft ranks second to drugs as the most lucrative criminal activity.

"Stolen art is a good market to launder money," said Ellis.

"If you have a bundle of

you can go to an auction, buy in cash and then use it as collateral. You can recoup the money later on with a receipt. Then you have clean money."

A painting can be deposited in a bank in Switzerland where, after five years, a missing masterpiece becomes the property of the owner provided he is not the thief.

While there, the picture can be used as collateral.

One picture remained with a mafia family for 20 years and was used as collateral in drug deals.

London is the hub of the world's art market and one of the centres where stolen art works change hands. Stolen goods, so long as they are not well known masterpieces, can be sold undetected at one of the city's many auction houses.

British laws governing the import and export of antiques are less restrictive than in other European countries, making London doubly attractive for art thieves.

Because recovery rates for stolen art are low — virtually zero for moveable items like

silver and small antiques — the insurance and fine art industries have decided to fight back by forming a centralised computer register for stolen goods.

The object of the London-based Art Loss Register (ALR) is to deter art theft, aid recovery, help stop trading in stolen art and try to keep insurance premiums low.

The register, which charges a fee for each item entered in its computers, has had 1,000 thefts reported since its launch in January.

"Increasingly art has become a moveable currency and as the barriers come down, this will be easier because there will be no customs control," said ALR Marketing Director Florence Hardinge.

The ALR, which also has offices in New York, had a resounding success last month when six paintings valued at up to £80,000 (\$138,000) were recovered by police only 10 days after they were stolen from offices in the city of London.

Police have free access to the ALR's computers and officers were able to recognise the pictures when they raided a house in north London.

Mr. Hardinge said the ALR was setting up a system for auction houses to check their catalogues against a special archive. She hopes this will improve recovery rates. The ALR will only enter items valued at over £1,000 (\$1,700) but Mr. Hardinge says: "We would register Michael Jackson's shoes because they have a value attached to them."

Gifts

By Maha Addasi

SOMETIMES the best gift to get is no gift at all, because it is the thought that counts, it does not apply except if it is an afterthought. Why? because the gift looks like a discarded, unworn, outgrown garment wrapped in gift paper and tied with a ribbon.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not talking about expense here. A nice gift has meaning and can cost very little. A bouquet of someone's favourite flowers in their favourite colour is a "valid" gift even if it's daisies. Whereas a bottle of some, seemingly expensive perfume smelling like (or competing with) the leading insecticide, is not a great choice.

But a gift is a gift and you must reciprocate in kind, and avoid, the "worst gift" category. This is when your troubles begin because you realise you just don't know what to get. What do you give a 12-year-old boy on his birthday, or a grandmother on her's? And if you gave your mother one more cooking pot for Mother's Day she is going to explode for sure, because you "insist on implying that women have to stay at home and cook. So starting tomorrow I'm going to find work outside the house!" You don't want a reaction like that. But you don't want to buy her clothes either because your taste may not see eye-to-eye with hers, and her reaction may even be unprintable.

So you start to acknowledge that it is very difficult to buy a gift, even though the recipients will anyway lie to you and tell you it is what they have always wanted even if they already have ten of it, or if they dislike it.

The solution is to follow simple guidelines while shopping for a gift. First, remember the worst gift you ever received. The pair of shoes you got from your friend who visited Italy, the ones that were not made in Italy and were two sizes too big. You know, the one you literally had to throw away because no-one had that shoe size, or liked orange polka dots on shoes. Second, don't hold grudge while shopping. Just because you hate the birthday boy's mother does not mean you should buy him a puppy dog that is "not house-trained."



But rule three is the one you must stick to the most. The value of the gift. You do not want to give a girl a diamond, unless you are fully prepared to carry the consequences. I am sure many husbands sneak around at night looking for the "cursed" diamond ring he gave his wife the night he proposed. And many wives would sell the diamonds they accepted because after twenty years of marriage the price paid for the diamond waned in comparison to the price she paid by being married to her husband. So as I said before, think before you buy because the most appropriate gift may still be nothing.

From an eagle to a Pekinese, that's Baghdad's animal market

by Peter Gregson
Reuter

BAGHDAD — The caged birds come to Al-Khalifa Street Friday.

But if they sing, it's hard to tell in the hubbub of one of the Iraqi capital's more colourful street markets.

From an eagle to a Pekinese, a turkey to a goldfish, creatures of all sorts are all on sale at the sidewalk bazaar that forms each Friday morning in the shadow of the imposing sand-coloured mosque that gives the street its name.

Crowing roosters are carried dangling by their feet, sheep and goats are tugged on pieces of string, a brace of puppies, plucked out of a shopping bag, is set down on the pavement. Cages of all descriptions hang from walls, lie on the ground or are passed hand-to-hand over the heads of the jostling all-male throng.

Street vendors sell bird-

seed, melon, sliced limes, fresh-baked pretzels and heart of palm sliced to order from a log-sized chunk.

A small boy holds up a droopy, sad-eyed puppy. What kind? He is asked. "German Sausage dog." How much? "three hundred dinars," he replies — \$930 at the official rate of exchange or two months' salary for the average worker.

Anwar Mohammad, 14, has two small hawks to sell, one in a cage and the other tied to his wrist. "Forty dinars each," he says, a sum officially equal to about \$120 but more like five at black market rates.

How did he get them? "I bought them in Sulaimaniya in the north and brought them here to sell at a better price," he says. How much did he pay in Sulaimaniya? "I'm not going to tell you that."

From a makeshift cage of wood and wire mesh little larger than itself, an eagle stares out malevolently. The

proud vendor says the bird is only six months old and worth every bit of the 1,500 dinars he is asking — more than many Iraqis earn in a year.

Along the kerb are the caged songbirds — finches, thrushes, cockatiels, love birds, plumed pigeons, doves, budgerigars and others.

Murthana Hussein, 35, gave up his job as a government mechanical engineer, bought some budgerigars and finches and began breeding them.

"I have done this for a year now," he said. "The salary from the government was 160 dinars (a month) after 10 years. Selling here, I can make 400 dinars."

His birds retail for between 10 and 50 dinars a pair.

Veterinarian Abdi Settah Riyad Mighbil, 32, runs a small surgery in a cramped shack at the centre of the market.

He said he has treated all kinds of creatures — monk-

keys, snakes, parrots — but his main business is vaccinating dogs and birds and treating their minor ailments.

As he speaks, a turkey is brought in to be treated for an impacted egg that has stopped it laying for the past two weeks.

But even this thriving centre of activity is a victim of the economic blight that has befallen Iraq since the Gulf war and the subsequent imposition of world trade sanctions.

"This market used to be very popular with Kuwaitis, because of the favourable exchange rate," one vendor said.

The birds of prey now on sale for around 40 dinars each fetched 100 dinars then.

"Iraqi hawks were very famous and much prized by the people of the Gulf states," Mr. Mighbil said. "Before the war people from all over the Arab Gulf would come to buy. Now they don't make 400 dinars."

His birds retail for between 10 and 50 dinars a pair.

Veterinarian Abdi Settah Riyad Mighbil, 32, runs a small surgery in a cramped shack at the centre of the market.

He said he has treated all kinds of creatures — monk-

Suzie Wong's Wanchai seeks respectability

By Gerry Marron
Reuter

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's notorious but now faded red-light district of Wanchai, home of the legendary Suzie Wong, is hoping to trade on its history to pull in the tourist crowds again.

Wanchai's sleazy night-life industry was immortalised in the *The World Of Suzie Wong*, the best-selling book and 1960 film starring William Holden and Nancy Kwan. It tells the story of Eurasian prostitute with a heart of gold.

"Everyone all over the world knows about Suzie Wong," said Peter Mann, Wanchai's local government administrator.

"We shouldn't sweep it under the carpet. We should make that face work for us as far as tourism is concerned."

But the tourists that Mr. Mann hopes to attract are a far cry from those the district drew in its heyday during the Vietnam War, when U.S. troops came in their thousands on "R and R" (rest and recreation) visits.

Throughout the swinging sixties Wanchai's glitzy clubs bulged at the seams with servicemen out for a good time.

A warren of narrow streets and low-east apartment blocks, Wanchai has fallen on hard times since the U.S. forces quit Vietnam in the early 1970s.

About 75 per cent of the

1960s girlie bars have closed and only about a dozen remain.

"It was really exciting during the war. The sailors were everywhere," said Helen Chan, madam of the misnamed Country Club Bar.

But Ms. Chan said she frittered away the profits from the 1960s in the nearby Portuguese-ruled territory of Macau, a favourite for gamblers from Hong Kong where casinos are banned.

"I made a lot of money but gambled it all away in Macau. Now there's not so many sailors and GIs," she said.

The U.S. fleet still occasionally revives the old days with visits to Hong Kong. But in their absence, only a few men lounged at the Country Club Bar. There scantily-clad girls danced unenthusiastically on a small stage.

"Wanchai's really not the same any more except when the ships come here. Then we can do good business again," said Ms. Chan, sadly shaking her head.

Ms. Chan wants to encourage a different clientele in

Wanchai — respectable middle class tourists. He is negotiating with the Hong Kong Tourist Association to organise guided nostalgia night tours of the area.

"What we would have to do is if we organised tours, of course, would be to ensure that no one got ripped off down there," he said.

Unsuspecting visitors can get through rather more money than they bargained for when they cross the threshold of some of the clubs that remain in Wanchai.

"Buy me drink please. You buy me drink. Come on ... just one please," is still the constant refrain from the smiling Filipinas and Thais who staff the clubs.

The smile quickly becomes a scowl if the answer is no. In these days of rising prices a hostess tipple — a tiny lemonade or soda water — costs a sizeable 88 Hong Kong dollars (\$11.35).

The bar girls' cut is just 2.50 dollars (\$32 U.S. cents) a drink. But it is till living. "The best time for getting

people to buy drinks is late at night or early in the morning," said Deer, a 22-year-old Thai dancer at the Hawaii Club.

"Then the men have all been drinking and they'll maybe even buy champagne (at 250 dollars — \$32.25 — a glass) if you're nice to them."

Deer's story is a familiar one throughout Asia's red-light districts. She was unemployed in her home town, Thailand's holiday resort of Phuket, until she heard from a friend that jobs were going in Hong Kong.

For the past six months she has worked six days a week, from eight in the evening until five in the morning, serving drinks and chatting up customers. In between she does a series of 15-minute bumping and grinding dancing sets on the stage.

"I make a lot more money than I do back home," she said.

But bar girls like Deer may have to work harder for their money in future if Mr. Mann has his way. He believes the bars where Ms. Chan and Deer work will change as Wanchai matures and attracts a more sophisticated tourist clientele.

"What you'll see happening is these bars becoming a bit more expensive and less sleazy ... the only way the bar area can survive is to be brought into the community."

Time in a bottle

By E. Vogel

A smell of American coffee drifted about the room. A large table spread with an old white cloth bore a few dishes of humus, a big bowl of Israeli salad and some bottles of yellow orange juice. The place was the Women's Building in New York. The time was lost in a bottle which contained Palestinian dreams that had never come true. The purpose of the gathering of American women was to try to understand the Arab-Israeli question. The invited guests were two Palestinian women. Outside the building, giant drops of rain pelted streets and sidewalks and passing cars splashed through rivers of water reminding the occupants of the meeting of the weather outside. Some of the jubilant members of the women's federation were Jewish.

Leslie, a Jew, bustled up to the table stating, "I'm a professional eater, so I can't wait to taste the food." She wore a confident smile and a gracious manner. She was well prepared for this event. She was well informed. She had been to Israel many times. She counted as friends some Palestinians that she had met on her visits. Leslie was a member of the Jewish Peace Lobby. She sat down with her dish of food and said, "I believe that both cultures and people possess their own inherent beauty and are quite similar. If Israelis are to have peace, then they must recognise the Palestinians' right to exist. But the Palestinians must come to terms with the Jews and seek some form of lasting peace."

Leslie was a fountain of information and still a Jew. She gave one of the greatest verbal weapons Jews use to certify their claims to Palestine as she said, "You know, God gave Israel to Isaac through Abraham. It's even written in the Bible!" She happily munched on Arab bread buttered with humus.

A Palestinian woman interrupted. "Ah, but did God give Palestine to only Jews? I beg to disagree, but God gave Palestine to the seed of Abraham which through the Prophet Ismael includes the Arabs. Besides, Judaism is no longer a race of people but a religion. Can you deny this Leslie?"

Leslie shook her head in agreement. Samira continued. "My people are refugees from a land which they loved and tilled for two thousand years. What right have European Jews to my forefather's land? Is it possible to squeeze all the Jews in the world into one small country? Then, all the Christians in the world should also have a special country just for them and the Muslims should too. I can see no justification of the occupation of Palestine by a foreign power! If the Americans can use force to get the Iraqis out of Kuwait, then at least they should be able to solve the Arab-Israeli problem."

Some of the women present at the meeting scratched their heads and nodded in approval. It was the first time they had ever heard the Palestinian side of the conflict. But they were puzzled because they had been saturated with false history and cruel images of Arabs as barbarians with caveman mentality. They turned to Leslie. She was so good with words and had a quick supply of facts and figures. She was a prolific speaker and even if she did misinform, who knew the difference? Samira, the sad victim of the intifada who had brothers and cousins in Israeli prisons did not make as significant an impression as Leslie who claimed, "Although I am a Jew, I don't agree with the Israeli policy towards Palestinians. It must be terribly hard to live under Israeli curfews and threats!"

Samira who had been born and raised in the West Bank replied; "Yes, it is extremely difficult to live under such circumstances. No one here can imagine just how difficult our circumstances are. We live from one day to another, very unsure of our future. Our lives are constantly endangered

and there is no secure place for babies, children, aged and infirm. Our young men have grown up without hope. Their dreams of education and a decent life have been destroyed by Israeli brutality. My brothers have been in Israeli prisons for doing nothing. They committed no crime. Simply because they are Palestinian they were thrown in prison and tortured and held without a trial or a hearing. Israelis hope to stamp out the Palestinians by putting fear in their hearts. Our families are very close knit. The Arab people are devoted to their children. A child is considered to be a trust from God and parents place all their tender care in their children. Imagine how such a mother feels when her son is killed by Israelis for no reason other than being a Palestinian. How are we expected to forget and forgive the injustices inflicted upon us?"

Again, many women shook their heads and a sigh of compassion flickered in their eyes. A world away, all they had to worry about was which of thirty TV channels to watch, where to walk their dogs and which hairdresser to go to. Was it sympathy Leslie showed when she carried on with her facts and figures? She could outspoken most women any day, but could she outspoken truth, pain and reality? A quarrel had been exposed between the present and the past. Everyone could listen only as well as they could hear.

One concerned woman asked Samira, "Are your brothers all educated?"

"Yes," she answered. "Inspite of everything, all my brothers are educated."

Then your family must be very rich!"

"No, not at all. I grew up in a refugee camp. My father worked very hard to support us. He paid for my oldest brother's education and then my brother paid for the next brother to be educated and so on until all my brothers became educated. Education is our only hope for a better future. We Palestinians prize education. My father died of hard work and a broken heart. He never saw his land again. When my father passed away, I never got to tell him all the secrets I had to say!"

Another Palestinian woman named Michele spoke out. "There can never be peace in the Middle East until the Israeli oppression ends and the Israelis acknowledge the fact that all Palestinians are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Right now, Palestinians are second class citizens in their own land, they do not have the right of assembly, education, the right to vote or choose their own form of government. I warn all of you that as long as the Palestine problem is left to fester there will never be peace and there will be further wars. Perhaps you will see the next Middle East war fought over water, for where are all these Russian Jews that are being shipped to Israel going to find housing, work and water? The next war will involve your sons just like the Gulf War did!"

Whatever mask Leslie was wearing, she couldn't conceal her frustration at the effectiveness of the Palestinian women's speeches. She puttered up to Samira and said, "Thank you Samira for your enlightenment. You talk so beautifully and with such emotion. It's been wonderful hearing your point of view."

In closing, the chairwoman who organised the meeting said: "We are very happy to have had these Palestinian women present and to share their views and opinions with us. Thank you for coming. I hope that violence will stop and that there will be a just and lasting peace in the Middle East!"

After the meeting ended, rain still beat down hard on scurrying people, cars splashed in rivers of water and somewhere above the din of noise in the occupied territories, Palestinian babies were crying and mothers were mourning their dead. Time in a bottle. And the quarrel between the past and the present, right and wrong, was put on hold. But for how long?

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 19

10:20 Simon And Simon

Heels And Toes

8:30 Family Man

You Bet Your Life

The two boys do what they

should not do — betting on a football game — and the price is high, morally and financially.

9:10 Outlaws

Hard Case

Starring: Rod Taylor

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

The Miniver Story

Starring: Walter Pidgeon

It is the story of a woman's

love for her family and her sacrifice after the end of the

World War II.

Friday, Sept. 20

Marmottan Museum celebrates the return of 9 stolen paintings

The Marmottan Museum in Paris is celebrating the return of its prodigal children back to their home: Nine precious paintings, stolen in 1985 and found again last December, after five years of investigation which took the police from Paris to Corsica via Japan.

By Pascal Tefnac

PARIS — The nine paintings, spectacularly stolen from under the eyes of the attendants and visitors, in broad daylight, included Claude Monet's star painting heralding Impressionism: *Soleil Levant* (rising sun). The event made the whole of France shudder.

It was just after ten o'clock on Sunday morning, Oct. 27, 1985. About forty visitors had just gone into the Marmottan Museum, a former mansion in a quiet little street, opposite the Ranelagh Gardens, near the Bois de Boulogne in Paris. The street itself is named after a painter, Louis Boilly.

Two youths paid their admission like everybody else, and slipped in among the visitors. They were soon joined by three other characters only one of whom wore a mask. In a flash, the five gangsters, who had drawn their guns, locked up the five attendants in a closet and gathered the visitors together in one of the fifteen exhibition rooms.

Three of them then rushed to the "Monet room" in the basement, housing most of the paintings bequeathed to the Institut de France, which owns the museum, by Michel Monet, the painter's son. But they did not just take anything. In addition to Impress-

French museums, as the cost of insurance would be exorbitant. Their value is estimated as being at least a hundred million francs, but are they saleable, famous as they are?

The victory of a policewoman

The investigation began. It was to last five years. In October 1987, two years after the theft, a trail was picked up in Japan. The Japanese press devoted long articles to an apparently very well-organised French-Japanese connection but one which had not, however, managed to exchange the stolen paintings for cash. True or false? For the Monets, it was not known. But, on 28th October 1987, the Japanese police announced that they had found three other paintings stolen in France, the Corots looted in the museum of Saumur-en-Auxois, in 1984.

A policewoman, who was to become famous, went to collect them and brought them back to France in December, together with a fourth Corot which had been found in the meantime (out of the five which had been stolen in that museum). She

was Chief Commissioner Mireille Balestrazzi, a smart young woman of 33, head of the Central Office for the Repression of thefts of works of art and art objects.

It was the first time in France that such a bold hold-up had been carried out in a museum in broad daylight. It must be said that their task was greatly facilitated by the fact that the museum's alarm system is only switched on at night.

That Sunday morning in the Marmottan Museum, there was considerable consternation, not to say despair. The paintings were not insured, as is the case in all



Chief Commissioner Mireille Balestrazzi holds a returned painting.

The receiver, a certain Donatien Pierre Comiti, aged 30, was arrested, but he asserted that he had not stolen the paintings.

Commissioner Balestrazzi, assailed by journalists at the press conference announcing the victory, remained discreet about the way the paintings had been found, but she hinted that she had got wind of the "Corsican connection" while in Japan.

The April 16 was a day for celebration at the Marmottan Museum. All the stolen paintings were there, in the basement, having been cleaned, repaired (two of them had been slightly damaged in the adventure), re-framed, mollycoddled and viewed with relish by the Paris "who's who" of culture. What a relief. They were home again — L'Actualite en France.

German TV flickering out

By Mark Heinrich

Reuter

BERLIN — DFF television, the sole institution of Communist east Germany to survive German unification last year, will disappear from the nation's screens in a few months' time.

DFF — German Television and Radio — adapted to the democratic changes which swept east Germany after the collapse of communism, but nevertheless is doomed under the terms of a 1990 unity treaty between the two German states.

Broadcasting in the new Germany is organised along the old west German tradition of decentralised, regional stations. East German Radio and Television was centralised and before the 1989 revolution under government control.

Only half of DFF's 6,200 staff can count on being hired by the regional stations that will replace the bloated central state system.

And DFF's replacement by stations that will belong to the former west German ARD network will strip east Germans of a final say on programming and news beamed to their own homes. "The new decentralised system, I fear, will do much to muzzle a genuine eastern voice in television," said Alfred Roesller-Kleint, DFF's executive news editor.

"Millions of east Germans are going through tough times now," he said in an interview, alluding to the social upheaval, such as mass unemployment, wrought by the switch to capitalism.

"They need our kind of understanding coverage, but

after Dec. 31 that will give way to more and more of the glib, cool style of west Germans who are just strangers here."

East German news programmes have an unpretentious flavour far removed from the leaden propaganda of the Communist period but also distinct from the wooden delivery of many west German television broadcasts.

Aktuell, DFF's main evening news bulletin, and documentary programmes like Klartext (clear text) focus on the adjustments its viewers must make in the new Germany.

DFF devotes more air time than the western channels to consumer reporting to help its audience come to terms with the hitherto unfamiliar market economy.

There is an environmental magazine, ozone, which uncovers the ecological scandals perpetrated under communism and long kept secret.

A women's programme called no makeup illustrates how east German women are coping with a loss of economic independence since the end of universal employment under communism.

About 68 per cent of DFF's entertainment programming is homemade. Other programmes are "imported" from ARD or abroad.

On-air presenting is breezier, more casual than the starchy standards of west German television.

One of the most popular and acclaimed DFF's programmes is the "Elf 99" youth show. It is one of a select few which will survive when ARD takes over.

DFF journalists may seem amateurish by western stan-

dards, sometimes bungling their scripts, stumbling over their questions or failing to raise important issues. Some even shake an official's hand and wish good luck at the end of an interview.

This seems to be a lingering effect of growing up in a system that inculcated an awe of officialdom.

But DFF editors say east German viewers do not mind a few problems and point to ratings competitive with ARD and ZDF, the national second television channel.

Out reporters are immediately affected by the upheaval here, whereas west Germans are outsiders reporting for distant west German audiences. East Germans feel better informed by DFF," said Manfred Pohl, managing editor for the station's news division.

Regardless of ratings, DFF will still flicker out under terms of the unity treaty which ruled our centralised state institutions in a federal democracy.

DFF obtained the right to a slow death because of procedural hurdles involved in dissolving it into west Germany's legally intricate system of decentralised public broadcasting systems.

A Mitteldeutsche Rundfunk (Mid-German Broadcasting) Network headed by a west German has been formed jointly by three of the five east German states and intends to hire 2,000 staff.

Political differences between the other two states have held up a joint network there."

DFF editors accept decentralisation but protest at the exclusion of east Germans from senior posts in the new stations.

Some cloaks are made of dreams

By Heidi Muman

HAMILTON, New Zealand — In April 1991 native New Zealander Rangimarie Hete, O.B.E., C.B.E., opened the most recent exhibition of her work at the Waikato Museum in Hamilton. The Maori weaver, at 99, is one of New Zealand's foremost experts in a craft that was almost lost half a century ago — flax and feather cloak weaving. The spectacular cloaks, each named after the bird whose feathers are used, are made by bending the end of each quill and securing it with a weft chain.

It is largely due to Rangimarie's efforts and hard work that Maori weaving has seen a renaissance. When Waikato University awarded an honorary doctorate to the white-haired weaver in December 1986, friends, family and the public were more impressed than she was. "I do what the old people taught me," says Dr. Rangimarie diffidently.



The spectacular feather cloaks woven by Maoris are made by bending the end of each quill and securing it with a weft chain. The work took so long that each cloak was an heirloom.

"Of course, I'm glad that people are weaving again now. But it's not such an extraordinary thing. I learned from my mother, I taught my daughter." Fittingly, Rangimarie's daughter, Digger Te Kanawa, is in turn passing the mantle down to her daughter Kahu.

Digger? What sort of name is that? "Well, if you want to talk about names, start with mothers': Rangimarie. You pronounce that Rangimarie, Peace on Earth; she was born in 1892 when the Maoris and the pakehas (white men) stopped fighting at last. My grandfather was Charles Hursthouse, a surveyor working on the new railway line to be built through King Country."

King Country was a western district of the North Island of New Zealand that held out against British domination in the 1870s and installed its own king. About the last thing the "Kingites" wanted was a railway line

encroaching on their precarious independence; they captured the surveyor. And a young woman of the tribe was captured by Hursthouse.

He married Mere Te Ron-

gomamao, a mission-educated girl; he learned to speak fluent Maori and settled down. For a while. When Rangimarie was still small, her father left King Country and went to establish another family in Wellington. His wife brought up their four children alone. They walked to school daily, or rode a pony if one was handy.

Rangimarie married into a family as colourful as her own. Tukena Taonui Hete was a carpenter and builder, educated at Kings College in Auckland. His father, Louis La Hetette, was a Frenchman.

"Grandpa owned the first hotel in Te Kuiti, and the first butcher's shop," Digger remembers. The Hetettes were pillars of society in the turn-of-the-century frontier town.

Digger worked as a dressmaker in her young days, a craft she learned after her education had been halted by illness. "I cried when I wasn't allowed to go to Queen Victoria College with my sisters," she recalls. Digger lived at home, a small girl with big, big dreams. She wanted to be a dress designer, an artist, though she had never been taught art. "But my dad, when he saw what I was trying to do, he let me use his toolshed as an atelier. If I made a mess in the house mother scolded me."

Digger never became a painter but she learned things at home that no schoolmistress could have taught her. There's the language. In the early years of this century Maoris with an ambition to "get on" spoke English with their children. Maori didn't get you a job. Rangimarie and Tukena only spoke Maori to each other when they didn't want the children to understand — but, says Digger, "I had big ears." The sisters who went to village school and on to college learned knitting, crocheting, embroidery and dressmaking but not flax-weaving. Digger, confined to home and the company of her mother and aunts, learned the old crafts.

Teaching is a "tapa" (forbidden) activity. A young person can't teach her seniors. The heedless teacher will lose her knowledge. Digger talked it over with her mother, and finally requested a special dispensation from a tribal elder. "Are your shoulders strong enough to carry this burden?" he asked with a smile.

"They always had some weaving, mat-plaiting or panel-making in hand. Strangely enough, mother wasn't keen to teach me. Dad told me to watch, find bits of materials and try it out myself." Rangimarie gave her daughter the occasional tip, but Digger learned mostly by watching her teach others, by trial and error, by imitation. "What you've got to figure out for yourself, you don't forget!" she says. Digger married at 20, and raised a family of 12. There wasn't much time for recreational fancy work then, though her skill in sewing came in handy. But she didn't forget.

In 1951, Digger and her mother were asked by the Maori Women's Welfare League to teach weaving. These two, mother and daughter, were among the very few women in New Zealand who had the skill and were sufficiently articulate to teach others. Digger was surprised at first. "We thought the craft would die out with us old ones. People were more interested in becoming educated, I suppose." Traditionally, weaving is a skill passed on among close kin. Simpler things like basketry are not so restricted, though Digger's Aunt Tira was horrified when she discovered that Digger was teaching food-basket weaving to an older woman.

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"I didn't understand what he meant then," says Digger. "I do now. Members of one tribe may object to an 'outsider' called in to teach them. Older folks say, why is this young person teaching us? It used to bother me. Now I'm

used to it. The old man taught me a special prayer — well, I've said it many times!"

Attitudes have changed since then, and Digger is older, so the seniority problem is solved itself. Tribal distinctions are not so jealously guarded: National-level meetings are held regularly and people hardly ask about individual descent. Women gather together as women and craftworkers, eagerly learning from those competent to teach. Weaving has always been a women's activity, carried out when no men were in the house. If visitors came, a weaver immediately covered her work; an unfinished weaving is taboo.

"That's another modern trend; some men want to weave. I teach them if they show talent. Why not? Should we preserve the taboos and lose the craft?" In 1988 Digger was awarded a trip to study 19th-century Maori artifacts in museums in England and the United States. "It was during this trip that I really learned how near to extinction our heritage had been. The Museum of Mankind in London has a collection of 100 exquisite cloaks.

A 'kakapo' cloak in the Museum of Perth, shimmering green, is made of the feathers of a bird now practically extinct! We visited Peabody Museum at Harvard, the Salem Museum, the University of California — it was the experience of a lifetime!

We were allowed to handle and examine the handwork of our ancestors. A few applied techniques I had never heard of; I made notes and copies to make sure the craft can be revived."

Digger enjoyed her world trip. Rangimarie doesn't travel much nowadays. She does such work as her eyesight permits, and leaves activity to the young ones; one great-granddaughter is conservator of textiles at the National Museum in Wellington. "It's good to see that now, during my own lifetime, the craft revives. It is no longer something to be seen in museums as an example of what the Maoris did 200 years ago," she says.

A single feather cloak takes about 500 hours of work. Flax is harvested and prepared by the weaver herself. "If I had a chance to shoot a 'kiwi,' I wouldn't do it!" Digger protests. There is

a bird park in nearby Otorohanga. If one of its native birds passes on to the Great Aviary, Rangimarie and Digger get the feathers. During hunting season, friends send bags full of bird feathers. The down of some bantam fowl can also be utilised.

Digger wants to make one feather cloak for each of her children: Half a dozen, finished, half a dozen to go. Teaching and travelling take up time. Daughters Kahu and Rangi are involved in the "business," as the family calls the Ohaki Village Centre. Started by Digger's son Dan, the centre offers certificates for weaving students, tourists, schoolchildren — anyone who's interested in Maori handicrafts. Learners are beginning to flock to Ohaki Village. Digger can pick out the ones who will make good weavers within a few days.

But she doesn't sell feather cloaks. "You put too much of yourself into them," muses Digger while rolling flax fibers on her thigh to make string. "I think every Maori family should have one, and I think they should make it themselves. I'll teach anyone who wants to learn!" World News Link.

Calorimeter measures human energy to solve nutrition problems

By Steve Saksom
The Associated Press

BELTSVILLE (AP) — Outside, it looks like a high-tech walk-in cooler, with a control panel sporting a dizzying array of dials. Inside, it resembles a fancy jail cell, with a sink, toilet, bed, TV and a door slot for meals.

It's neither a deep-freeze nor a lockup. It is a calorimeter a room-sized machine that measures human energy with pinpoint accuracy, calculating how many calories the body takes in and gives off.

This precision is crucial to studying how diet affects health, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) researchers say.

William Rumph, USDA research physiologist, said it has become evident over the last decade that excess weight is "one of the top three health risks of Americans."

The 9- by 12-foot (3- by 4-metre) metal box was built in 1987 at the USDA's Energy and Protein Nutrition Laboratory and is now one of three operating in the country.

Test subjects spend 24 hours in the box, as the researchers call it. Their energy use can be measured while exercising, resting, or sleeping.

The calorimeter has 80,000 sensors embedded in its walls that pick up how much heat the body gives off. Other sensors measure how much oxygen is breathed in and how much carbon dioxide is expelled.

Scientists feed the subject meals through a door slot.

Each item on the tray is measured down to the gram for an exact calorie count.

In the past four years, calorimeter research has solved some practical dietary questions, the researchers said.

For instance, a 3-year study involving more than 100 subjects debunked a common dietary myth—that differences in body metabolism can lead some people to get fat while others stay thin.

"There just isn't the guy who eats six twinkies a day and doesn't gain weight. He's doing something else in his life, such as exercising or fidgeting inside his clothing or maybe he goes home at night and doesn't eat dinner," Mr. Rumph said.

The calorimeter also was used when the U.S. Navy was trying to figure out why some of its divers were losing weight during long-term salvage or research operations inside diving chambers.

"Some had lost up to 10 per cent of their body weight in less than a month. It had a major impact on their performance," said researcher James Seale.

Mr. Seale found that the high-pressure environment below the ocean surface had increased their energy use 10 per cent to 15 per cent. The pressure also was compressing their food, making it unappetizing and causing them to eat about 10 per cent to 15 per cent less.

The USDA was able to tell the divers exactly how many calories they would have to eat each day to maintain their weight.

Diabetics on human insulin 'face increased risk'

LONDON (R) — Diabetics who switch to genetically engineered human insulin from animal-derived versions are more likely to suffer dangerous side effects, Swiss medical researchers have said.

In two studies sure to fuel a growing controversy over human insulin, the researchers found that 46 per cent of diabetes patients admitted to Berne hospitals suffering from severe hypoglycaemia — a sharp drop in blood sugar that can lead to coma or death — were on bi-engineered insulin compared

with 34 per cent on animal insulin.

Also, 90 per cent of those on human insulin had changed over from animal insulin.

"As human insulin in general has no advantages over highly purified animal insulins, the costs and benefits of universal transfer to human insulin should be seriously considered," the researchers said.

Diabetes, a condition of chronically elevated blood glucose, affects three to four per cent of the population in the Western world. In those

who have the disease, the body's own immune system attacks and destroys the cells that produce insulin.

The Swiss studies, published in the British Medical Journal, are the latest in a series of conflicting reports over the merits of human insulin, first introduced in 1982 and now used by a majority of diabetics.

British lawyers representing some 500 diabetics said last month they are considering a multi-million-pound lawsuit against Chicago-based Eli Lilly and Co and Novo Nordisk A/S of Denmark, the main suppliers of human insulin, on claims that the high-tech drug caused the

cheaper to produce and purer but many diabetics have complained that the switch to human insulin suppressed the early symptoms that signal a hypoglycaemia attack, thus eliminating the opportunity to take quick preventive action.

British lawyers representing some 500 diabetics said last month they are considering a multi-million-pound lawsuit against Chicago-based Eli Lilly and Co and Novo Nordisk A/S of Denmark, the main suppliers of human insulin, on claims that the high-tech drug caused the

the blood sugar levels obtained by the two forms.

However, the Swiss researchers said that patients who had switched to the human type were more likely to suffer loss of concentration when their blood sugar level started falling, which could prevent them from taking action to bring it back to normal.

In 493 episodes of hypoglycaemia, 52 per cent of patients on human insulin were likely to report a loss of concentration compared with 35 per cent on animal insulin.

Canadian artificial heart technology draws interest

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian researchers have said they have begun to sell a lightweight battery pack and a set of wire coils that can power an artificial heart and free a recipient from a bed.

The University of Ottawa Heart Institute's transcutaneous energy transfer, or TET device, sends electrical power to the artificial heart pump without requiring perforation of the skin to allow for wires.

The power source is a key component to a self-contained artificial heart doctors worldwide have sought because of a shortage of human donor organs.

The University of Utah, where the first artificial heart pump was implanted, has bought some of the TET technology for use in animal experiments and hopes to fit the first implantable heart by 1994, Ottawa Institute officials said.

The institute is also negotiating to sell devices to two other U.S. research centres and has received inquiries from three other groups in the United States and one in Europe.

Most artificial heart recipients are tied to bulky compressors by tubes that can cause infection. But the TET device, developed in less than two years, weighs three pounds (1.36 kg) and allows patients to move above freely.

Furthermore, researchers say, it is more efficient than similar U.S. devices, one-fifth cheaper than previous equipment and free of interference from electrical fields and metals that put recipients of old technology at risk.

The energy transfer circuit in the device is a transformer with coils of wire just beneath the skin and on the surface of the skin.

Study finds benefits to lumpectomy for breast cancer treatment

LONDON (R) — Women with breast cancer who make the controversial choice to remove only part of the breast rather than undergo a radical mastectomy may improve their chances for long-term survival, a team of U.S. doctors have said.

The doctors said research showed that a radical mastectomy, in which the entire breast and surrounding tissue and muscle are removed, may also take away an important early warning signal that the cancer is spreading to other parts of the body.

A lumpectomy, which removes only the part of the breast surrounding the tumour, increases the chance that the tumour will recur in the whole breast removed.

Some doctors argue that a lumpectomy could increase the risk of the tumour spreading.

indication that the cancer may spread to the rest of the body, women lose that early warning signal if they have the whole breast removed.

Some doctors argue that a lumpectomy could increase the risk of the tumour spreading.

A hospital improves staff-shortage crisis with imaginative scheme

A hospital in Frankfurt has been experimenting with a scheme to improve staffing levels by improving morale among nurses and nursing aides. It has even set up a creche so that nurses who are mothers are entitled back to the wards. The trial was begun in February last year in four wards. Before the end of this year, it will be introduced to a total of 25. Its success means that the hospital has dragged itself out of a situation in which, over a five-year period, 840 of the 1,180 nurses on the staff quit. Although the new system is seen by its supporters as the answer to a nation-wide problem, news of the success remains limited. An inquiry at the Bonn headquarters of one of the big national health-insurance schemes revealed that no one had ever heard of the experiment. Michael Schumacher reports for the Bonn daily, Die Welt.

safeguard for nursing staff. Doctors had to accustom themselves to this new arrangement. "It's a good idea, of course," says Dr. Umscheid, "but we now have even more paperwork. We could well do with a ward assistant."

Fourth, the hospital runs a creche for nurses with babies. They are nurses who would otherwise have had to quit but can now carry on working, safe in the knowledge their babies are being looked after after a stone's throw away. Silas, the son of nurse Sabine Polgar, attends the hospital creche. Nurse Polgar, 30, went back to work after taking a year's motherhood leave. Work in her old ward was so exhausting that pregnancy came as a welcome relief. She was determined not to go back to nursing, but thought about changing her mind when she heard about the new schedule. She now enjoys her work, especially now she has enough time to look after her son.

The new schedule costs DM 2,500 a month extra per ward, which isn't much for the improvement in working conditions when it is considered that the hospital is run by a specific minimum number of nursing staff, failing to take into account medical progress in recent decades. Modern diagnostic techniques, for instance, have identified multiple complaints, making the patient's hospital stay longer. Yet hospital staff have shorter working hours than they did a generation ago. Any extra staff needed must be provided and funded by the hospital itself.

The health insurance schemes are considering reforms. "Early in August," says Hans-Georg Kraushaar, Frankfurt business manager of the Allgemeine Ortskrankenkasse (AOK), "we are going to talk with hospitals and see how we can finance future restructuring." At Höchst the new schedule is to have been such a success that it is to be extended from the four test wards where it began in February 1990 to 25 full wards before the year's end.

Other Länder seem likely to maintain their reliance on conventional means of coping with the health service crisis, such as recruiting nurses from hospitals in what used to be East Germany, which could hardly be the last word on the subject. The schedule's failure to spread further afield seems to be the result of a breakdown in the flow of information. At the AOK association's Bonn head office no-one has ever heard of it.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

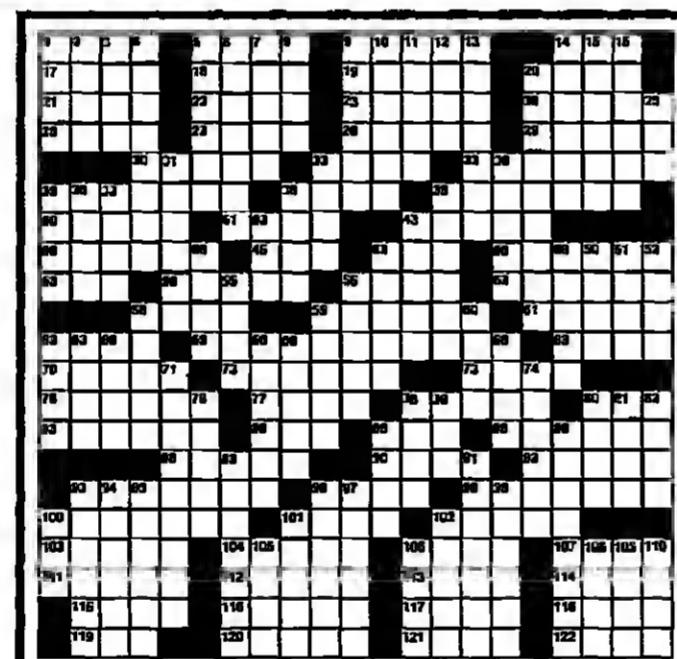
SIMPLE SIMONS
By Olive Dunn

ACROSS

- 1 Rural duty
- 2 Beesides
- 3 Neckwear
- 4 Pigeon
- 5 Skinned birds
- 6 Stopped away
- 7 Dimples
- 8 Linger
- 10 Those who sniggle
- 11 Holes and soot
- 12 Scops or who begins
- 13 Rap sessions
- 14 Cigar
- 15 Producty
- 16 Max. shawt
- 18 Matron and Los
- 20 Dope
- 25 Comp. p

DOWN

- 1 Brooklyn
- 2 Wide
- 3 Domestic employees
- 4 Elect
- 5 Iterary; abbr.
- 6 Tamazza
- 7 "Promised" author
- 8 Melodies
- 10 Short plity saying
- 14 Prepares a roadway
- 15 Stenographer's specialty
- 16 Commemoration
- 17 Put behind bars
- 20 Glove size; abbr.
- 22 Part of orange
- 25 Underhand
- 27 Sword
- 28 Summer in Charres
- 31 Tricky fellow
- 32 Mineral
- 33 Circumlocution
- 34 Make annoyed
- 38 Board
- 39 (anonymously)
- 40 Spouse
- 41 Always poetically
- 42 Dazzles or Coky
- 43 Crivne city
- 44 -er
- 45 Picks up
- 47 - man (anonymously)
- 48 Copy
- 50 Understated or Garfunkel
- 51 Alacritous
- 52 Employee
- 53 Wishes
- 54 Was painful
- 55 Bodily structure
- 56 Seizes
- 57 Wedding arrangement
- 58 Choice part
- 59 Explosion
- 60 Summer in Charres
- 61 Was patient
- 62 Bodily structure
- 63 Gunpowder
- 64 Turn away
- 65 Inert
- 66 Put away for later
- 67 Et



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. We found very long times since passing and so very odd in flight. We flew in a suddenly returned house the previous night.
2. In this world every human deserves to have a heaven no matter how humble or dismal it may be.
3. Men who had created his wealth making electro-magnets was known as "magnet magnate."
4. Why is it a yawn is a catching thing?

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. FITYZ TUGEWIRE JDETAYL JUGDZE'W KWIEZ UE I DIZZYL WU JCIRY I EROCW AGDA IPLIRZ UP CYROCW. —By Lois H. Jones

2. JLA GRMGRLVMB ME GPDDE GBYBME KLYYK YEBQL KPDSYFQJ GPL YMEILI APVT TMV GLGGLRK VM QPRY SEPLJL

—By Earl Ireland

3. TIRACEY PUN NPC WORD TRICK WOLUK RODA KN YIF KUAF UIS RIBLA "SIOBF" —By Ed Huddleston

—By Ed Huddleston

4. AEIOU ZEYXUIUT WJTIO SEW WJTFC BIXUYQYEOJ WS OENU MENSYTWW OJYRQO MYSY QUTIZ FJSQUX. —By Rita Salvato

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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PU

Regional realignment

(Continued from page 1)

seek a unilateral solution to the Arab-Israeli and the Palestinian-Israeli problem. The very nature of the two-track process suggests very clearly that it is integral to the process that agreement cannot be achieved on comprehensive peace based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 unless that agreement is on both tracks. So the participation in the state-to-state talks does not contribute to comprehensive peace. Nor can any government claim that it had achieved comprehensive peace. Even if we take into consideration the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, which stands before us, is a clear indicator that that in itself is not enough to achieve comprehensive peace and therefore the participation of the Palestinians is an essential factor in this regard.

Q: What is your comment on the argument that a bad deal would be better than no deal at all considering the increased pace of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories?

A: I feel that today domestically in the U.S. there is a tremendous concern for regional problems solving in the Middle East. So that is certainly

an opportunity there that should be taken very seriously by all concerned. However, I just want to make clear that there is a difference you refer to a deal, between a conference and its convening and between the intellectual, economic, social and political stances required to maintain a process and it is there.

It is terribly important, I feel, that the U.S. commits itself to a process, that indeed Europe commits itself to a process, that Japan commits itself to a process whereby the difficulties faced by all concerned in the region are understood. It is one thing to say, as you said, a bad deal which implies that the parties will be squeezed with pressure to attend the conference but that pressure cannot be maintained indefinitely if regional arrangements are to be achieved and that has to be through some form of consensual agreements so these concessions to be maintained — means that the credibility of the players, politically, socially and economically, has to be developed and as far as the Palestinians are concerned clearly political balance has to be achieved between Israel on the one side and the Palestinians on the other for a comprehensive and just peace.

'Compromise' reported

(Continued from page 1)

by the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat Monday as saying that although he would participate in the talks if asked, he would not agree to be a "substitute for the representation of the sons of Jerusalem."

Israel, the diplomats said, considered the two villages to lie within the West Bank since it occupied East Jerusalem during the 1967 war.

Mr. Baker Monday spent three hours discussing a letter on U.S. positions on the proposed talks with Palestinian leaders.

The Palestinians said Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) approval was needed before they joined the talks, but hinted at concessions on delegates to meet Israeli demands if Washington backed the principle of Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories in return for peace.

"I don't want to tackle the East Jerusalem problem now through the media," Egyptian Foreign Minister Hosni Mubarak said after meeting Mr. Baker Tuesday night when asked if Cairo was working with Palestinians to find a compromise for East Jerusalem.

U.S. moves forces to S. Arabia

(Continued from page 1)

overflights.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar also said he did not think the United States needed permission from the council to send in U.S. warplanes to help efforts to eliminate Iraq's longer-range missiles and biological, chemical and nuclear weapons programmes.

"I don't think the United States is going to the Security Council in order to ask for a special authorisation," he said, as he entered U.N. headquarters. "But I think they could consider (that) it is included in the overall authorisation under Chapter Seven" of the U.N. Charter.

Earlier, the White House announced the United States is sending some military air units to Saudi Arabia. Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he had not been informed in advance of the U.S. move.

A U.S. administration official said the United States wants Iraq to allow the United Nations to use its own helicopters on inspection flights over Iraqi territory.

President Bush said Iraq "knows better than to take on the

United States of America." Mr. Bush said he was "plenty fed up" with Iraq's resistance, and U.S. planes would escort United Nations helicopters if necessary to protect their weapons inspection missions in Iraq.

National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said the Saudis would receive Patriot missiles for defensive purposes.

"We're not in a threatening mode here," Mr. Bush said while hiking in the Grand Canyon in Arizona. "That's not what this is about ... there's just determination ... that (Iraq) will comply" with the United Nations mandate to inspect nuclear facilities.

The head of a U.N. nuclear weapons inspection team said U.N. missions would press on with attempts to uncover Iraq's military secrets despite any hostile Iraqi reaction.

British Leslie Thorne, told of the deployment by reporters in Baghdad, said, "I don't think it's going to make the atmosphere any easier for us. I expect the Iraqis will react very strongly. We've had some very strong comments from them this week about aspects of our inspections."

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Economy

Financial Markets		Jordanian	
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 17/9/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 18/9/91	
Sterling Pound*	1.7425	1.7405	
Deutsche Mark	1.6725	1.6747	
Swiss Franc	1.4595	1.4597	
French Franc	5.6975	5.7040 **	
Japanese Yen	133.85	133.85	
European Currency Unit	1.2240	1.2228 **	
* USD per STG ** European Opening at 8.20 a.m. GMT			
Foreign currency interest rates Date: 18/9/91			
Currency	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.50	5.50	5.68
Sterling Pound	10.31	10.00	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.25	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.06	8.00
French Franc	9.25	9.31	9.45
Japanese Yen	7.00	6.56	6.31
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.68	9.78
Interest rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.			
Precious Metals Date: 18/9/91			
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	JD/Gm
Gold	347.35	6.80	4.07
* 21 Karat			
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 18/9/91			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688	
Sterling Pound	1.1929	1.1989	
Deutsche Mark	.4093	.4173	
Swiss Franc	.4694	.4717	
French Franc	.1202	.1208	
Japanese Yen*	.5116	.5142	
Dutch Guilder	.3630	.3648	
Swedish Krona	.1123	.1129	
Italian Lira*	.0547	.0550	
Belgian Franc	.01988	.01998	
* Per 100			
Other Currencies Date: 18/9/91			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.7650	1.7700	
Lebanese Lira*	.0770	.0772	
Saudi Riyal	.1826	.1835	
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-	
Qatari Riyal	.1859	.1870	
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2100	
Oman Riyal	1.7250	1.7400	
UAE Dirham	.1859	.1870	
Greek Drachma*	.5600	.5700	
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.4700	
* Per 100			
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Markets:			
Index	16/9/91	Close	17/9/91 Close
All-Share **	116.96	117.90	
Banking Sector	98.64	99.01	
Insurance Sector	119.12	119.85	
Industry Sector **	144.58	146.59	
Services Sector	125.95	125.91	
December 31, 1988 = 100			
** NOTE: The big jump in the Industry and All-Share Indices compared to their levels of 113.80 and 100.61 respectively on September 9, 1991, is attributed to the rise in the share price of the Arab Potash Co. from JD 1.10 to more than JD 13.00			

Furnished Apartment For Rent
 Consisting of one bedroom, salon, dining, bathroom, kitchen, garden, separate entrance with central heating and telephone.
 Location: Shmeisani, near Yugoslav Embassy.
 Tel.: 661658

FOR RENT SUPER DELUXE
 Villa in Abdoun, suitable for diplomatic mission.
 For more information please call:
 Jamal Real Estate Office 635859

CONCORD
 Cinema Tel: 677420
ICA'S LAW
 Mahmoud Abdul Aziz Athar Al Hakeem
 Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

NIJOUN
 Cinema Tel: 675571
To Be Opened Soon
 Nabil Mashini Theatre

Dutch government warns of recession, rising unemployment

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Dutch government released its 1992 budget Tuesday, warning the nation may be on the verge of recession and rising unemployment.

"1992 will not be an easy year," the government of Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers said in its state of the nation address read by Queen Beatrix.

"Our economy is facing the same recession that has already hit other countries. As a result there is a danger that after a number of good years that unemployment will again rise," the queen said.

The 1992 budget drawn up by Socialist Finance Minister Wim Kok was unveiled after the queen's address. It projected declining deficits through 1994 but at the same time growing borrowing needs to redeem past debts.

The finance ministry estimated the budget deficit will reach 20.8 billion guilders (\$1 billion) in 1992, and then fall to 19.9 billion guilders (\$10.5 billion) in 1993 and 18.4 billion guilders (\$9.7 billion) in 1994. The 1991 budget deficit is expected to reach 21.4 billion guilders (\$11.3 billion).

Mr. Lubbers' coalition of his Christian Democratic Party and the Socialist Party pledged to steadily cut the deficit when it took office in 1989.

Since then, a slowing economy, high structural unemployment and the debt have forced the government to grapple mainly with issues surrounding employment and social welfare programs.

While the official unemployment rate hovers around five percent, the Netherlands is plagued

by a long-term disability benefits programme that has drawn almost 900,000 people to the welfare rolls out of total workforce of six million.

As Queen Beatrix spoke, work stoppages were held across the country to protest welfare cuts included in the budget. Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in the streets of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and other cities.

The 1992 budget said there will be a shift in government priorities to boosting employment and limiting social welfare expenditures.

The last budget emphasised reduced defence expenditures and higher environmental provisions while maintaining extensive social welfare programmes.

The budget includes a government efficiency drive and a three per cent wage increase for civil servants that lags behind the 4.5 annual inflation rate.

If the 1992 deficit reduction goal is reached, it will mean a decline compared to the net national income (NNI) to 4.25 per cent.

NNI is a government economic indicator that corrects the gross domestic product for depreciation of the country's infrastructure. The projected 1994 deficit would be 3.25 per cent of the NNI.

As the total national debt continues to accumulate, the state's borrowing needs will climb to a total of \$1 billion guilders (\$27 billion) in 1994, according to the finance ministry.

Interest and costs on maintaining the debt, expected to peak at 70.3 per cent of NNI in 1992, will account for 13 per cent of the government's total expenditure in that year.

U.S. slaps \$37m fine on Pharaon

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. central bank Tuesday fined a Saudi Arabian investor \$37 million for illegally buying a California bank on behalf of the scandal-ridden Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

Ghaith Pharaon has also been charged with snapping up shares in two other American banks for BCCI, aiding the Luxembourg-based bank's illegal push into the United States starting in the late 1970s.

A federal court in New York also froze Mr. Pharaon's U.S. assets until the Federal Reserve (Fed) completes its enforcement action against him. Mr. Pharaon has owned various plants and businesses in the United States.

The investor controls a vast web of companies around the world and has lately been active in Argentina. His whereabouts are unknown, and his lawyer was unavailable for comment.

The civil fine was levied for Mr. Pharaon's violation of U.S. banking laws in the purchase of 85 per cent of Independence Bank of Encino, California, in 1985, for \$22 million.

Mr. Pharaon has not been indicted on any criminal charges.

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WANTED FOR RENT

Unfurnished 2-bedroom apartment. Located between 1st and 8th Circles - Jabal Ammar. Please contact tel.: 622098 or 637262

FURNISHED DELUXE APARTMENT FOR RENT

Consists of three bedrooms, guest room, living room, maid room, three bathrooms, kitchen, telephone and central heating, with an area of 220 square metres. Location: Western Shmeisani, Abdul Hameed Al Nimr Street, near Bilal Mosque. The house number is 24. For Information please call tel.: 664256 or 665593

The Spanish Cultural Centre announces the beginning of its Autumn course for Spanish language.

The duration of the course: 3 months and includes all levels.

Registration for this course starts on Saturday September 21, 1991.

The course begins on Wednesday October 2, 1991. Classes are taught by Spanish instructors.

The cost of the course is JD 40 including books.

For more information please call 624949 or 610858

Location: Jabal Amman between First and Second Circles.

N.B.: Registration takes place at the present location of the Spanish Cultural Centre — Queen Zein street.

The classes will take place in the new building of the Spanish Cultural Centre: Third Circle — behind Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, near Al-Shara restaurant (Abu Ahmad)

It will cost nearly JD 1.2 billion

Study blames returnees for JD2.7b burden

Jordan's balance of payments receives yet another blow

By Robin Grew Agarwal
Special to the Jordan Times

FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC BURDEN DUE TO THE RETURNEES (Million JD at fixed 1991 prices)

	Capital expenditures	5-year recurrent expenditures
Resettlement services	653.0	0
1. Housing	300.0	132.0
2. Water & sewage	99.0	92.5
3. Education	60.0	85.5
4. Health	258.0	205.0
5. Other services		
Job creation	1180.0	0
TOTAL	2550.0	526.5

Source: Ministry of Planning: *The Financial Burden of the Jordanian Returnees on the Economy*, September 1991.

to creating new jobs for the returnees. This means a price tag of nearly JD 20,000 per new job opportunity. Nearly all of the returning Jordanians are unemployed — just 17 per cent of the total labour force of 71,000 have jobs.

The estimated costs to Jordan covered in the report are dependent on the location of the returnees. Approximately 230,000 Jordanians so far have been forced to leave the Gulf states and seek permanent residence in Jordan. This number is expected to reach 300,000 by the end of this year.

According to the ministry report, nearly 80 per cent of this influx has settled in the already-overpopulated Amman-Zarqa region, a "shocking increase in the population size of these areas that shall lead to a further deterioration in the existing levels of social and other services," according to one paragraph.

The study conducted in April of this year by the National Centre for Educational Research and Development examined the returnees' incremental demand for health, education, transportation, water and sewage, food supplies and social infrastructural services.

"We estimate that within five years, the returned population will be fully absorbed into Jordanian society and will be able to pay their own way," said one official. "Until then, however, we have some major costs."

Deluxe Furnished Villa For Rent

Consists of 2 bedrooms, lounge, guest room, modern American-style kitchen, with telephone, separate central heating, two airconditioners, 2 bathrooms, separate garage. Annual rent JD 13,000.

Location: Shmeisani — opposite the Professional Association Complex — near Al Arab Insurance Company.

Call tel.: 687425

U.S. IMMIGRATION

Haig V. Kalbian Attorney-at-Law, Washington, D.C. fluent in English, Arabic & French

Mr. Kalbian, a highly respected corporate and immigration lawyer will be in Amman during the second half of October 1991.

Appointments are now being taken. If you are interested in U.S. immigration based on the new law of 1990, a consultation with Attorney Kalbian is a must.

The new law eases immigration requirements in some of these areas:

Croatia accuses Yugoslav army of violating ceasefire

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — Croatia accused the Yugoslav army Wednesday of violating a ceasefire which came into force in the rebel republic at midday.

Imra Agotic, a Croatian Defense Ministry spokesman, said shooting continued in at least three towns after the deadline for the ceasefire agreed Tuesday by Serbian, Croatian and army leaders with EC peace envoy Lord Carrington.

"The army has not ceased firing. There is fighting on the streets. They attacked us again and we are defending ourselves," Mr. Agotic said.

His comments reinforced doubts that the latest of several ceasefires brokered by the EC can and almost three months of fighting that has killed nearly 500 people and pushed Yugoslavia towards full-scale civil war.

The ceasefire was ordered at midday (1000 GMT). But Mr. Agotic said a battle which started Tuesday night in Varazdin, 75 kilometers north of Zagreb, continued after the deadline passed.

He said the Croatian towns of Sunja and Komarevo were also under attack from mortars and reporters in the centre of Zagreb said machinegun fire had sent

people scurrying for cover.

Before the deadline, air-raids warning sirens wailed in Zagreb, and Croatian radio accused the federal air force of opening fire earlier on Oseko, south-east of the capital. The army denied the charge.

Lord Carrington, head of an EC peace conference on Yugoslavia, said he feared "the bloodiest civil war for some time" if the ceasefire failed.

"There is such animosity and such a build-up of bitterness that it is very difficult to see what we can do other than to encourage them to believe, as I genuinely do believe, that this is the last chance," he told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Yugoslav President Stipe Mesic, a Croat, told Spanish Radio he did not believe the federal army or Serbian guerrillas would stop battles with Croatian forces, which began after the republic declared independence on June 25.

"We Croats are ready to respect the ceasefire agreement which Lord Carrington initiated but the Serbs and the army will not be for it," Mr. Mesic said. He said Yugoslavia now ex-

isted only in name and he would resign his post on Oct. 7 when a freeze on independence moves by Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia expires.

Army spokesman General-Colonel Marko Neganovic said the armed forces, deployed to separate the warring sides but accused by Croatia of backing the Serbs, would observe the truce.

But he said Croatian leaders had broken previous deals and denies the army had opened fire first on any occasion.

The ceasefire noon deadline was agreed by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Yugoslav Defense Minister General Veljko Kadijevic to the southern resort of Igalo Tuesday.

Under the accord, all sides should withdraw armed forces from flashpoints and disband and disarm all paramilitary and irregular units. Croatian National Guard reserves are to be disbanded and the Yugoslav Army should return to barracks.

But violence erupted overnight. The Zagreb sky was illuminated by an artillery duel and tracer bullets as people ran for shelter and air raid sirens wailed

in the Croatian capital for the fourth successive day.

EC spokesman Simon Smits said Danish observer Mogens Fokdal was shot in the thigh when Croatian forces fired at a blockaded army headquarters in central Zagreb, where a team of monitors had been staying. A protest was made to Croatian authorities.

A Dutch journalist, Erwin Van der Mast from Utrecht, was reportedly killed in fighting near Novi Gradiste in eastern Croatia Sunday, the Croatian Information Ministry said.

Mr. Tudjman, Milosevic and Kadijevic said Tuesday that Yugoslavia, a country of 23.5 million people divided into six republics, was only days away from civil war.

But Mr. Tudjman cast doubt on the accord, saying Croatia would not abandon federal army bases it had seized since Friday in an offensive which triggered the latest round of violence.

"Croatia will not withdraw from its own territory," he said. "The army is shaken by the blows we gave it in the last days so this is one of the reasons they wanted to negotiate."

Solzhenitsyn 'ready to return home'



NEW YORK (R) — Soviet dissident writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who survived war, prison and cancer to win the Nobel Prize, has outlasted hardline communism while in exile, and says he will return to his homeland.

The Soviet Union Tuesday cleared the way for the return by dropping the treason charges it had levied for his multi-volume exposé of the Soviet prison system, *The Gulag Archipelago* in 1974.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn, 72, said he would return, but also said he would finish his current work before ending his 17-year-long exile, the latest in the series of trials that have marked his life.

He was a decorated hero during World War II before he was sent to a prison camp for criticizing Stalin while serving on the German front.

He was released from the camp and sprang to fame with the appearance in late 1962 of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, a short novel based on his labour camp experiences.

The book's publication was ordered by Communist Party leader Nikita Khrushchev as part of his campaign to discredit Stalin and his supporters.

system as he grew more and more reclusive on his estate in rural Vermont.

In exile he remained a fierce critic of the Soviet Communist system and vowed never to return until both communism and the KGB had collapsed.

President Mikhail Gorbachev issued a decree last December offering to restore Mr. Solzhenitsyn's Soviet citizenship, starting a process that led to the dropping of treason charges Tuesday.

In an interview broadcast last week on American television, he said, "I was always sure that I would one day return. Before these events, under the KGB and the Communist Party I did not have the opportunity to return."

Mr. Solzhenitsyn is writing a major novel on Soviet life that he has been working on for several years. Friends said that now that he is free to return, he has pledged to finish the work as quickly as possible.

"He feels that his return to Russia would be a final return and that once there he would be engaged in other works and have no time for writing," a friend said.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn has always maintained it clear that he wanted to return to die in Russia.

Column 8

Well-bred top dog required for London show

LONDON (R) — A top London theatre began auditions for a role that aspiring actors can easily sink their teeth into. The Aldwych Theatre is casting for a corgi to play the role of one of Queen Elizabeth's adored dogs in a children's play opening in December. Five corgi auditions for the part lacked one attribute for which the queen's canine companions are notorious — a penchant for biting the royal hand that feeds them. In March, the queen needed three stitches on her hand when she was bitten by one of her corgis. The queen's mother's chauffeur was also bitten.

Nobody knows names of thieves who knocked over Cheers

BOSTON (R) — It may be the place where everybody knows your name — as the signature tune says — but nobody knows who robbed the Bull And Finch, the Boston bar that inspired the hit U.S. television series *Cheers*.

The Bull And Finch has become one of Boston's most popular tourist attractions since it became the setting for the long-running comedy. But police say one set of visitors was highly unwelcome — the two armed thieves knocked out one employee with a bottle, threatened the manager with a crowbar and made off with what one report said was at least \$30,000. The place was robbed two weeks ago but it became public knowledge only Tuesday, when it was reported by the Boston Herald.

Dutch grave-digger suspended for not digging deep enough

AMSTERDAM (R) — A Dutch grave-digger has been suspended for not digging deep enough. A bereaved family complained last week that a relative's remains had been buried only 10 cm (four inches) below ground level. The legal minimum depth is 65 cm (26 inches), police in Moergestel in the southern Netherlands said Tuesday. The grave-digger said he could not bury the coffin any deeper because it was another casket below it. The church which suspended him declined comment "for reasons of piety."

Mix-up leaves son talking to wrong ashes

LONDON (R) — A grieving son who has spent two months talking to ashes he thought were those of his dead mother has been told her remains are still at the crematorium. "Who have I been talking to for the past seven weeks if it wasn't my mum?" bachelor Lea Farhall, 51, was quoted as saying in the Sun newspaper Monday.

The Sun said the crematorium told Farhall the ashes of his late mother Ivy would be scattered unless he claimed them. They have not revealed whose remains he received by mistake. "Some people have told me just to dump them on the roses, but I can't do that," said Farhall.

Art critic's Picassos go to auction

PARIS (AP) — The private collection of art critic Maurice Raynal, including the first preliminary study for Picasso's *Demoiselles d'Avignon*, goes to the auction block in November. Raynal, who lived among the artists of Montmartre and Montparnasse, was France's most ardent defender of cubism. Ten important works, including portraits of himself and his wife by Juan Gris, and Picasso's *Guitare Moutoune* (1918), will be sold on Nov. 28 at the Drouot-Montaigne auction house.

Estonia was "quite concerned about the large number of foreign troops currently on Estonian soil" and hoped this would be resolved quickly, as with Poland, Hungary and other East European countries, he said.

Latvia's President Anatolijus Gorbunovs said that "due to the Russification policies pursued by the former regime, Latvians ... are on the verge of becoming a minority in their own homeland."

Calling for moral, financial and economic support from the world community, he said: "The people and state of Latvia share a bitter historical experience which has taught us a great deal. Let this be our contribution to the experience of all mankind."

Liberia summit produces accord on disarmament

YAMOUSSOUKRO, Ivory Coast (R) — A West African summit on Liberia's civil war produced agreement Tuesday for the first time on procedures for main rebel leader Charles Taylor to surrender his arms.

Mr. Taylor, who in December 1989 launched the ruinous civil war that has left the West African country divided, agreed to put arms in depositories under supervision of the West African Peacekeeping Force in Liberia (ECOMOG).

He also agreed to confine his

fighters, many of them men in their early teens, to supervised camps, the summit announced in a seven-point communiqué.

In exchange, the interim government which controls Liberia's capital Monrovia bowed to Mr. Taylor's demand to revamp ECOMOG to reduce Nigeria's role.

Mr. Taylor sees Nigeria, the regional superpower, as having been a close ally of Liberia's late President Samuel Doe, who was assassinated at the height of the war last year.

China's president ill

PEKING (R) — China's 84-year-old president, Yang Shangkun, is ill and missed an official welcome for a state visitor, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

"President Yang is having a cold so that is why he asked Premier Li Peng to preside over the welcoming ceremony for the president of the Botswana Republic and also the welcoming banquet," a spokeswoman said.

She said she did not know if he was in hospital.

Mr. Yang was scheduled to preside over the welcoming ceremony for Botswana President Quett Masire Wednesday. In April Mr. Yang disappeared

from public view for three days. The Foreign Ministry said then that he had a cold and declined to confirm reports that he was in hospital.

Mr. Yang, one of the most powerful of China's ageing leaders, was in hospital for several weeks after contracting acute appendicitis in June 1990.

Mr. Yang has been shown frequently on television recently, looking well.

The army newspaper Wednesday reported three days ago to inspect missile launching with the navy's North Sea Fleet.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Korean student killed by police

SEOUL (R) — A student bystander was shot dead by South Korean police firing warning shots to disperse demonstrators, witnesses said Wednesday. Han Kuk-Wan, a graduate chemical engineering student at Seoul National University, died on the way to hospital late Tuesday night, a witness said. Police said Wednesday they were preparing for further trouble after about 1,000 students armed with iron bars gathered at the hospital where Mr. Han's body lay. Government prosecutors have launched an investigation into the shooting. Violent clashes broke out in April and May after riot police beat a student to death. Mr. Han, 27, was struck in the chest when police fired a volley over the heads of about 100 students attacking a police substation. Demonstrators yelling for the release of two students jailed last Wednesday flung petrol bombs and paving stones at the station near the Seoul National University campus, smashing windows and starting a small fire.

N. Korean leader hopes to meet Roh

SEOUL (R) — North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung is willing to hold talks with his southern counterpart Roh Tae-Woo, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said Wednesday. "President Kim Il-Sung hopes to hold a summit with (Roh) although the time can't be released at the moment," Yonhap quoted North Korean Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Jin as telling reporters in New York. Mr. Kang was attending the U.N. General Assembly which approved the entry of both North and South Korea into the world body. It was the first time that a northern official had hinted a summit could take place, Yonhap said.

Hawke delays South Africa visit

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Wednesday he had put on hold a visit to South Africa he was considering next month because he felt reform in the republic was slowing. "The changes towards transitional government and discussions about constitutional reform have slowed down and they are not going as fast as I think they should have," Mr. Hawke said in a radio interview. Mr. Hawke had been considering a visit to South Africa before the Commonwealth heads of government meeting (CHOGM) in Harare from October 16-22. "We've made the judgment that it wouldn't be yet appropriate but let me say we are going to have contact with them," he said. South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha has been invited to visit Australia before the CHOGM, following a visit to South Africa by Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans in June.

Shuttle lands safely in California

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The space shuttle Discovery landed in darkness in California early Wednesday after being diverted from its Florida runway because of bad weather. Discovery touched down at Edwards Air Force Base, California, in the Mojave Desert. It was the fifth night-time landing in 43 shuttle flights. The U.S. space agency (NASA) said cloud cover was too thick to allow the shuttle to make its first-ever touchdown in darkness on the swampland concrete runway at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

Canada slashes troops, European presence

OTTAWA (R) — Canada will shut its two military bases in Germany by 1995 and slash the total number of its troops by 10 per cent in reserve to the end of the cold war, the Department of National Defence said. The Canadian forces base in Baden-Soden will close in 1994 and the Canadian base in Lahr will close in 1995 when troops in Germany will have been cut to 1,100 from 6,100 now. The cuts are part of a package of cuts that will trim the total strength of regular Canadian forces by 9.5 per cent to 80,000 from a current 84,000 over three years. "Within a few short years, we have moved from a straightforward scenario of East-West confrontation to an ill-defined, relatively uncertain situation with respect to possible threats to security and world peace," Defence Minister Marcel Masse told reporters.

Salvador rebels propose truce

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Leftist rebel leaders Tuesday proposed a one-year truce to end El Salvador's civil war but the government immediately criticised it as propaganda. President Alfredo Cristiani and five senior commanders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) met separately for a second day with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. He is attempting to break the deadlock and set an agenda for peace talks. Diplomats close to the talks said the FMLN proposed a ceasefire for one year during which they would hold on to territory under their control. They also suggested the formation of a national commission comprising all parties and the government to monitor the truce. Cristiani told reporters the purpose of the meetings was to hear proposals from the secretary-general, not from the guerrillas.

U.S. trains collide head on

KNOX, Indiana (R) — Two U.S. goods trains collided head-on Tuesday, leaving one driver missing, injuring five crew and forcing local residents from their homes when leaking sulphur created a poisonous cloud, police said. The crash occurred at 8:30 a.m. roughly 50 miles (80 km) southeast of Chicago. A police spokesman said the driver of one train was missing. The other was injured and was taken to hospital. His condition was not immediately known. Four other crew were injured slightly. A poisonous cloud emanating from a tank carrying sulphur forces about 40 people to leave their homes.

Kaifu gains in popularity

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is gaining popularity among the Japanese public only a month before his party decides whether he should stay in power, a newspaper reported Wednesday. An opinion poll in Asahi Shimbun showed that 44 per cent want Mr. Kaifu to remain in power after his two-year term as president of the Liberal Democratic Party, which brings with it the premiership, ends in October. However, 42 per cent thought Mr. Kaifu should step down and let another party leader take over. In a previous Asahi poll in June, 35 per cent supported Mr. Kaifu while 49 per cent said he should step down. Mr. Kaifu is likely to face a challenge from several senior party figures for the post of president. Former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has already declared his candidacy.

Czech deputy premier resigns

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovak Deputy Prime Minister Václav Václav, in charge of coordinating economic policy, resigned Tuesday after allegations he had links to the once-dreaded secret police. "I cannot go on like this," Mr. Václav, visibly exhausted, told reporters in broken voice. President Vaclav Havel announced Mr. Václav's resignation over what the Czechoslovak leader termed a smear campaign in the press and parliament. Mr. Havel said that Mr. Václav had twice before offered to resign on grounds of poor health but he had persuaded him to stay on.

Nicaragua drops suit against U.S.

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua said Tuesday it had abandoned a world court suit filed by the former Sandinista government against the United States for its role in backing the contra rebels. Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus read reporters a statement saying that, effective from Sept. 12, the Nicaraguan government "proceeded to discontinue the process before the International Court of Justice," U.S. officials were "more than content" when told of Nicaragua's decision to drop the case, Mr. Dreyfus said.

U.S. to sell 18 F-16s

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States plans to sell 18 F-16 fighters to Thailand along with other support equipment \$547 million, the Defense Department said Tuesday. Defense officials said Congress had been formally notified of the plan by the administration of President George Bush and that it was expected to become official in 30 days without objection from lawmakers.

Italians arrive in Albania with aid

VIENNA, Austria (Agencies) —

A ferry boat filled with food and other aid docked Wednesday at the Albanian port of Durres, as a large-scale Italian relief effort began for the poverty-stricken Balk